

The
Worcester Historical Society
Publications

New Series
Vol. II, No. 7

September, 1942

Published by
The Worcester Historical Society
Worcester, Massachusetts

LIST OF OFFICERS, 1942-1943

<i>President</i>	ZELOTES W. COOMBS
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	{ EDWARD F. COFFIN JOHN W. HIGGINS MRS. ARTHUR W. MARSH
<i>Secretary</i>	NATHAN RICE
<i>Treasurer</i>	DWIGHT S. PIERCE
<i>Executive Board</i>	{ CHARLES E. AYERS ALBERT FARNSWORTH MRS. HARRIET M. FORBES MISS ANNA T. MARBLE
The above-named officers and Chair- man of Finance Committee, also .	
<i>Finance Committee</i>	{ CHANDLER BULLOCK GEORGE R. STOBBS EDGAR L. RAMSDELL

Executive Staff

GEORGE I. CROSS, *Executive Director and Librarian*
 KATHERINE REID, *Office Clerk and Assistant*
in Museum and Library
 WILLIAM J. WAITE, *Assistant to the Executive Director*

CONTENTS

PAPERS	PAGE
Green Hill, Worcester, Massachusetts, and Its Family, "The Greens of Green Hill," by Mr. Frank Colegrove . . .	315
The Lincoln Farm, Present Site of the Worcester State Teachers College, by Dr. Albert Farnsworth	329
Annual Reports of the President, the Treasurer, and the Executive Director	339-345

FOREWORD

THE WORCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1875

The purpose of this Society is to gather, preserve, and display for public benefit, historical material of all kinds, especially that relating to Worcester City and County.

The library contains all the local histories available, and seeks all local articles dealing with Worcester historical research. It contains works by local authors and has a well organized collection of over twenty thousand manuscripts, maps, broadsides and newspapers. Much of this material is unique and of great importance.

The museum displays many thousands of objects and pictures of historical significance. Many of these objects are of general interest while others, like local inventions, are a source of Worcester pride. Our aim is to illustrate from the actual tools, toys, clothing, ornaments, home utensils, heirlooms, works of domestic utility and art, the way Worcester County has worked, played, loved and grown in population, influence and aspiration.

The resources of the Museum and Library are increasingly used by students of all grades in the city and county schools in connection with their study of history, local and national. We aim to stimulate local pride and to inculcate those lessons of fair play, forbearance and love of our fellows which have made our country great.

The Society is supported by membership dues and income from small invested funds. These receipts are never adequate for our increasing needs. We appeal to all who are interested in this valuable American work to aid by entering into membership in the Society or by gifts of a historical or monetary nature.

Gifts by will may be made in the following form:

I give the sum of Dollars to the Worcester
Historical Society of Worcester, Massachusetts.

GREEN HILL, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, AND ITS FAMILY, "THE GREENS OF GREEN HILL"

Read before the Worcester Historical Society by
Librarian Emeritus Frank Colegrove, May 10, 1940

Among the many pleasant and interesting spots in Worcester there is perhaps none better known or better loved, at least by the people living in the northern portion of the city—and, especially, their children, than "Green Hill," so wonderfully adapted by nature, development and beautification to serve the purpose to which it is now dedicated in perpetuity—as a public park and play and exercise ground. Here are not only the conventional broad walks and the pretty ponds, to be looked at—the smooth lawns to be kept off of—but the up hill and down dale, the woody paths, to be trodden, explored, hiked and picnicked over in summer—skied and coasted over in winter—and the ponds used for swimming and skating. All this is a life-giving release from the benumbing sordidness of the crowded city contacts—and available to every individual.

But the story of Green Hill cannot be adequately told apart from that of the *family* which had there for one hundred and fifty years the center and inspiration of its life as they loved and slowly wrought the *homestead* into the thing of beauty which we know it today. There were swamps to be drained, ponds and reservoirs to be made, wildnesses to be subdued, natural beauty to be conserved—even moldings for surface form. These ancestral "home acres" were the constant magnet to which all the family, no matter how widely they had gone afield, were drawn for frequent reunions. At one of these family gatherings, September 15-16, 1861, after a separation of nearly twenty-five years, three were in Worcester; three came from New York; one from Chicago; one from Pestigo, Wisconsin; one from Copiapo, Chili; and one from Batticotte, Ceylon.

And so, in their successive generations, they have lavished their love upon it, and as they have loved it, they have beautified and adapted it, and, little by little *created* it, in its present form. Finally they have by their generosity made it possible for the city

to acquire it as a perpetual blessing—that we all might enjoy and love it as the family had done for so many years.

In a word, this Park is a *monument* to the family who loved and cherished it into being. For when you look about you here you are beholding not only a spacious, varied and beautiful public park, but also a magnificent and most fitting monument to the Greens of Green Hill, whose child it is.

Specifically, the *chief individual* contributor to the enlargement, improvement and beautification of the estate was its last sole owner, Andrew Haswell Green—not because he loved it more or had a stronger desire to have it brought to as great perfection as possible, than the other members of the family, all of whom coöperated heartily with him in every respect—his youngest brother, Martin Green, a civil engineer, and long manager of the estate, being a specially efficient helper—but he had the needed financial resources, and some special traits and abilities which either did not reside in the others or were never developed.

Seth Low, then Mayor of New York, in announcing Mr. Green's death to the Board of Aldermen, wrote:

“It may truthfully be said that to no one man who has labored in and for the city during the last fifty years is the city under greater and more lasting obligations than to Andrew H. Green. The city itself, in some of its most beautiful and enduring features, is the monument of his love, and the city may well cherish his honored name with the undying gratitude that is due to a citizen who has made it both a greater and a better city than it was.”

And another eulogist says: “Of him may it be said more truly than of the architect of St. Paul's—‘Would you see his monument? Look about you.’”

And so, as he was acclaimed father of “Greater New York,” we would acclaim him also father of the “Greater Green Hill,” and say, “Would you see his monument (and that of the whole loyal family)? Look about you.”

The family's love and devotion to the *Home Acres* was deep and persistent. It extended to the soil, the trees, even to the old buildings, which had gathered traditions, etc., which they were unwilling to lose. So when it became necessary to build a larger house to accommodate the expanding family and guests, they did not tear down the old one, but cut it into halves, lengthwise, moved the rear

half back far enough to build the needed addition—higher and more commodious—between the halves—they still forming the front and back of the completed structure.

The solidarity of the family, and continuity of their characteristics and traditions, were surely greatly enhanced by its long connection with the family seat, for when people love anything as these did the home acres, it does things to them; there is a strong reciprocal interaction of influence. And so, strongly and deeply as the home estate has been marked by the loving care of the family, I think that a no less profound impress has been stamped by it upon the characteristics and careers of the family in turn.

The greatest area of the estate was about 600 acres, made up of the Homestead, Millstone Hill, and the many small parcels which Andrew H. Green purchased between the years 1848 and 1896. The present public park contains 500 acres.

The following is a list of the successive owners of Green Hill; four individuals, in regular descent, covering 149 years (1754–1903), followed by a brief joint ownership by five nieces and nephews of Andrew Haswell Green, representing three of his brothers (1903–1905):

Dr. (and Rev.) Thomas Green
 Dr. John Green (1st)
 William Elijah Green
 Andrew Haswell Green

Joint owners:

Mary Pomeroy Green
 Lucy M. Green
 William O. Green
 Samuel M. Green
 Nathan W. Green

As to the purpose and scope of this paper—it is not a genealogy nor a biography—even a biographical sketch, of the Green Hill family or any member or members thereof. It is—well, we may call it a *story*, sketchy, desultory and anecdotal, of this one of the outstanding pioneer families of Worcester who have played their parts on the stage of our community life so as to earn our admiration and love, to contribute very sensibly to the upbuilding of the Worcester of the past, and still to be a factor in the further devel-

opment of our civic life, through the generous heritage they have left us.

It is, mainly, a *pleasant* story—of goodwill, public spirit, and civic service. It will be illustrated now and again with a closeup of some one of the actors, and a few bits of contemporary history.

I will begin my narrative at the point where my knowledge of the park and the family began—in a little incident which may seem over-trivial for mention, but the tenacity of whose memory has endured with me for nearly fifty years.

Soon after we came to Worcester I took our two little girls over to Green Hill for a walk, and, feeling a little doubtful about venturing at all upon what we knew was private property, though kindly opened to some extent to the public, was carefully keeping our party from straying from the roadway, and specifically from contacting any of the many tempting apples under the trees hard by, when we met one of the ladies of the house—with, I believe, a guest or two—coming along the road. We were about to pass with the most casual greeting, when the lady flashed a bright smile of welcome, and, gathering up a handful of the choicest apples, presented them to us.

This incident—trivial? Yes, but illustrative of two characteristics very fundamental in the family, recurring again and again down the line—a gentle graciousness and kindness, and a profound and ever-alert public-consciousness. Always devoted to the social well-being of the community—not in any way as agitators or professional reformers—but always as working out the deep-seated kindness and generosity of their spirit in such ways that both the beneficiaries and themselves might enjoy the process and the fruits.

I venture to regard this trait as one of the strongest characteristics of the family, the mainspring of their many solid benefactions, and of success in their chosen vocations.

It was not the mere existence of the beautiful Green Hill estate in that locality which constituted the good fortune of those living within easy walking distance of it—but that *and* its occupancy by such a family as the Greens, who so generously permitted us all to share in the enjoyment of it, long before the city had any title in it.

I find their biographers often put to it to emphasize adequately this quality of genial courtesy in members of the family. And here is testimony from a representative member of the family itself, that

this very suave, outshining courtesy was considered a thing to be *nurtured* and encouraged by example and precept in the family circle: In a letter to his young son at Green Hill, he says, "You have no doubt looked at the babies nigh you, and given the smile of welcome to the great family of man, and to Green Hill in particular. I hope they and many others, now babes, may have occasion to say, 'I think Mr. ——— Green is a very nice man, he is so kind to everyone.'" And, to connect this with my "incident," the recipient of the letter was a brother of the "lady of the smile and the apples."

And such as were the Misses Green in residence on the hill nearly fifty years ago, were also those there a generation earlier. Here are some *first impressions* of them, by Miss Anna M. W. Ward, then a teacher in the Salisbury Mansion School, in her diary:

On October 28, 1856, she wrote, "One afternoon we, with Miss Carter, were invited to take tea with the Misses Green, two delightful maiden ladies. Sister did not go, as the weather was unfavorable; but Miss C. and I did, and had a very pleasant visit. The Misses Green have a brother who is a missionary in Ceylon. He took the place of cousin Ward The home of the sisters is very unique and pleasant, and full of valuable curiosities; and the ladies themselves are extremely intellectual and agreeable."

Among the men of the family, perhaps the one most universally familiar to the people of Worcester as an exemplar of this trait was Librarian Samuel Swett Green. So radiant was his kindly courtesy that as I used occasionally, in his later years, to meet him on the street and exchange casual greetings, it was an incident to be thought of pleasantly through the day—even in the case of one a total stranger to him personally, as I was. Some other outstanding examples will be noted as we encounter them later on.

We wish to know what sort of people the members of this family were—what were their leading characteristics; what occupations or professions they followed, and *how* they followed them, that we may the better evaluate their benefactions, social and civic, to the communities in which they lived and labored—here, and, sketchily elsewhere.

Let us first consider some of those whose activities and benefactions mainly related to Worcester, and who were well-known figures among us.

The badge, or symbol of the family here which will at once occur to many of you, is "*the Doctor*," seated loungingly in his two-wheeled gig. He is a lover of horses and dogs, *and* of his patients, and his name is usually *John*. Mr. Samuel Swett Green says, "Thomas Green (Dr. and Rev.) bought this estate for his son, Dr. John Green, who went from Leicester to Worcester to live, and who was the first to bear the name and title which have been borne by distinguished physicians and surgeons in every generation of his descendants, his son, his grandson, in Worcester, his great-grandson and great-great-grandson in St. Louis."

Dr. John Green (1st), the second owner of Green Hill, was born in Leicester, August 14, 1736. He moved to Worcester soon after 1754, and settled at Green Hill, of which he became owner three years later. He began the practice of medicine at the age of nineteen and attained professional distinction. Though not greatly versed in medical books, he was an astute observer, naturally adapted to his profession, largely employed and of high reputation. He picked up from the Indians considerable knowledge of medicinal herbs, etc. He did not consider his duty to be ended by advice and prescription, but added to them faithful and vigilant nursing.

He established the first pesthouse in Worcester, and the records are full of his services to needy persons. He died in 1799.

"Dr. John Green, the second, born at Green Hill Mch. 18, 1763, became even a more famous physician than his father. He began practice at the age of eighteen. From his childhood the natural bias of his mind led him to that profession, which through life was the sole object of his ardent pursuit. To be distinguished as a physician was not his chief incentive; to assuage the sufferings of humanity by his skill was the higher motive of his benevolent mind. Every duty was performed with delicacy and tenderness. With these propensities, aided by a strong, inquisitive and discriminating mind, he attained to a preeminent rank among the physicians and surgeons of our country." *Thatcher's Medical Biography*.

He was a man of large frame, several inches over six feet, and was a striking figure in Worcester. He used to drive about in a two-wheeled vehicle, followed by a pack of dogs.

Dr. John Green, the third, son of the above, was the founder of the Worcester Free Public Library. He gave his library to the city in 1859. It consisted of about 7,000 volumes, having cost at

least \$10,000. The Free Public Library was opened to the public, in the Worcester Bank Block on Foster Street. In 1865 he gave to the Library 4,968 volumes more.

Surely the devoted, loving ministrations of Dr. and Rev. Thomas Green and the three Dr. Johns, all of whom in choosing the medical profession, evidently did so "with a predilection for using it primarily as an outlet for their kindness and sympathy," have drawn a bright trail across Worcester's history.

There is another occupation which the *daughters* of the Green Hill family seem to have been prone to adopt as an outlet for *their* kindness and missionary spirit, that is, the conducting of private schools for young ladies and misses. For instance, the successful and widely known one carried on for a good many years in New York City, by Lucy Merriam Green and her sister Mary Ruggles Green. In the then prevalent conditions in regard to facilities for the cultural education of women, this school, conducted as these sisters of the super-missionary Samuel Fisk Greek would conduct it, was surely a public beneficence. And no doubt the same holds true of the private school conducted in Worcester by Julia E. Green, a third sister of the same family.

A co-benefactor to Worcester in connection with the Free Public Library, with its founder, Dr. John Green the third, was Samuel Swett Green, Director for four years, 1867-1871, and Librarian thirty-eight years, 1871-1909. Another instance in which the long, able, zealous and loving administration of an important public institution is to be counted a major civic benefaction.

In the official memorial prepared and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Library, is this tribute:

"The Worcester Free Public Library can never lose the imprint that Mr. Green's long service has left." . . . "The Public Library can hardly be the same without the presence of the genial man who has so long presided over its destinies." . . . "Today he can number his friends in Worcester and elsewhere by thousands; here, certainly, everybody who has ever used the Public Library, or who knows the work it has done, is his friend, and that means all of Worcester."

James Green, brother of Samuel Swett Green, and a man of the same suave and courteous personality, was lawyer, extensive traveler in western United States and Europe, and President of the

Worcester Society of Antiquity (now Worcester Historical Society), 1911-1914.

I have suggested above that the solidarity of this family, and a remarkable continuity of their outstanding traits and traditions have been largely due to the reciprocal influence of the beloved homestead upon its creators during the 150 years of closest association. Now let us consider in some detail some of the generations in quest of any confirmation of this premise.

The first owner of the estate, Rev. and Dr. Thomas Green, has an almost identical replica in Samuel Fisk Green, of the fourth Worcester generation, as to outstanding characteristics and chosen pursuits. However, of course this recurrence of type in a single individual would, of itself, have little significance. But we have here something far more remarkable and impressive, that is a like close *comeback* of a whole large *family group*, parents, and children.

Thomas Green did not come to Green Hill as a youth with his character and fortune to make, but as a mature man, with his strong traits developed, his habits and pursuits long followed, and with a family, all of adult age. Let us then inquire as best we may from the available material, what manner of man this was and through what formative experiences he had come to us. To this end we will go back somewhat before his coming to Worcester, when his residence was in Greenville (now called Rochdale).

Of his children, of whom he had seven, we are especially interested only in John, for whom he bought the Green Hill estate—as the others were not identified with Green Hill.

Dr. and Rev. Thomas Green was a noted physician, with an extensive practice, but besides this practice as a doctor, he seems to have been a medical school of considerable proportions, having under his tuition from time to time 123 medical students. He was also equally eminent as a preacher, *and minister*—like this: In 1738 he founded the Baptist Church in Greenville (Leicester), the oldest Baptist Society in Worcester County. In 1888 a tablet to his memory was placed in the church, bearing this inscription, "Eminent as a preacher of the Gospel, practicing physician, man of business, benefactor of this Church, whose first meeting-house and its grounds were his gift." His house was near the church, and his widely scattered parishioners came there for their midday meal between the services. "While he was preaching on Sunday," said

Andrew H. Green, "at his home across the way, the pot was kept boiling to supply the needed sustenance to the little flock which came from all directions to attend upon his ministrations." The large iron kettle in which the meal was cooked is still preserved.

Small wonder that Hiram C. Estes, D.D., said "Dr. Green lived three lives and did the work of three men in one."

An often related incident in the life of the boy, Thomas, shows that he had already acquired the fortitude and resourcefulness of the true pioneer. Briefly, it was as follows:—At about seventeen years Thomas was left by his parents for a time at Leicester—with all his possessions, an ax, a gun, and one book on medicine—to look out for their cattle in the wilderness. While there the boy, it is said, was attacked with fever and became very ill. In his weak state he rested in a sort of cave made by a shelving rock in a little stream, and secured food by milking a cow which he induced to come to him frequently by tying her calf to a tree near the cave.

This, then, is the background out of which the youth, John, first of that illustrious line of Dr. John Greens, entered upon his career as owner and occupant of the Green Hill estate, upon attaining his majority—already for two years a practicing physician. Evidently a son after his father's own heart, whom he had himself instructed and trained as a doctor to such purpose that he eventually became even more famous as a physician and surgeon than his illustrious sire.

He was married twice and had thirteen children, three by his first wife, Mary Osgood, of Worcester, and ten by his second wife, Mary Ruggles, daughter of Brig. Gen. Timothy Ruggles—among them Dr. John Green, the second. Two of these entered the legal profession, two the medical, and one the clerical. Some were, for those days, widely travelled, who at each return from a foreign tour were sure to bring home some plant, vine or shrub, or some work of art, to add to the modest attractions of their simple but comfortable home. All of the children were born on Green Hill.

Dr. Cutler's statement regarding Samuel Fisk Green, "He seems to have inherited a predilection for the medical profession, and for using that profession as an outlet for his kindness and sympathy," might be applied with equal justice to a large number of the tribe.

In the other family group of our comparison, I will do as in the first, merely note briefly the salient characteristics of the father,

and inquire mostly concerning his children (the fourth Worcester generation) whose activities were in full course when the family's ownership of the estate was terminated.

The third owner of Green Hill was William Elijah Green, son of the first Dr. John Green, born at Green Hill in 1777, and died there July 27, 1865, in the room in which he was born. He resided at Green Hill all his life, with brief absences. He was of a fine presence, genial disposition, and of an unlimited hospitality, taking active interest in public questions, but shunning official life. He was married four times and had eleven children, most of them by his third wife, Julia Plimpton, of Southbridge.

A brief mention of these children, with their chosen pursuits, will be sufficient to show that they were true Green-Hillers of the most pronounced pattern—the type brought to Worcester by Rev. and Dr. Thomas, and Dr. John, the first, no whit dimmed or dissipated through the generations, but, if possible, intensified:

(By the first wife): William Nelson, lawyer, and for twenty years Judge of the Police Court in Worcester.

(By the second wife): Lucy Merriam, for many years head of a successful school for girls, in New York City.

(By the third wife):

Mary Ruggles, partner with her sister (next above) in the New York school.

Julia Elizabeth, who conducted a private school in Worcester.

John Plimpton, a physician, who practiced in China and Chili.

Andrew Haswell, lawyer, landscaper, beautifier of cities.

Samuel Fisk, for twenty years missionary in Ceylon—preacher, physician, teacher (seventy natives were his pupils in medicine, and have continued his labors there)—translator of important medical works into the Tamil language.

Lydia Plimpton.

Oliver Bourne, civil engineer.

Martin, civil engineer—manager of the Green Hill estate.

Now, so far as regards much the greater number of the members of this third-fourth generation, after 152 years of the influence of the "Home Acres," the stream of their life was running strongly after the type set by Thomas and Dr. John, the first. It could hardly rise higher than in the super-missionary, Rev. and Dr. Samuel Fisk Green. I suspect that, in his gentle, quiet way, he was even as much of a "shark for work" as Thomas himself.

Without detraction from what I have said of the reciprocal influence of the loved homestead, with its concentrated and semi-isolated family life, I think that the strongest factor in the remarkable solidarity of the family and the tenacity of their main characteristics and traditions, was not the isolation of their life on the Hill, nor simply the depth and sincerity of their convictions, but, with most of their outstanding members, their fundamental mental attitude toward the community. They went out into the community, not *to get* something for themselves, as most of us do, but *to give*—whether in Worcester or in Ceylon, having supreme confidence in what they felt they had to impart. So their own little environment had a far stronger formative influence upon them than did the greater one of the community. Just as the zealous missionaries stamped deeply their impress upon the regions which they served, but in return had their own characteristics only deepened, the Green-Hillers kept the essential stream of their characteristics strong and full in spite of much mingling with the community in the way of service.

But our story is not quite all told yet, for this fourth generation had not only its Samuel Fisk, and many others of the same ilk—a truly remarkable replica of the original type—but it had also its even more remarkable *exception*, in his brother *Andrew Haswell*, fourth, and last, individual owner of the estate. Here was a man who emphatically *did* go out *to get* certain things which he wanted, and pursued them with the full force of his being and with bulldog tenacity until he got them. What is the explanation of this phenomenon—a man who put *stark fear* into the hearts of New York's pirates and swindlers of the Boss Tweed régime, and after five years of the hardest and most discouraging work, surrounded by dishonesty, and subjected to abuse and personal danger, brought order out of chaos and placed the city's finances on a firm basis?

His astounding tenacity and thoroughness of pursuit, exhibited not only through the years of the Tweed struggle, but in the much longer battle (thirty years) for his ideal of a "greater New York," had a dampening effect on the ardor of any gang on plunder bent who found him on their trail. In his sketch of the life of Andrew Haswell, Samuel Swett Green says, "Upon retiring in 1876 from the office of Comptroller, Andrew Green assumed the extensive responsibility of executor of the estate of William B. Ogden, the

railroad king of Chicago and New York. The latter was a great business man, but, I understand, left his affairs in a somewhat unsettled condition. The very day that Andrew H. Green accepted the position of executor, Mr. Martin Green informs me, one hundred and fifty suits against Mr. Ogden were withdrawn."

Andrew Green, writing about the old house, says that it was not far from the city of Worcester, a plain wooden building, two-storied but low in the ceilings, of ample length and breadth, and anchored by a chimney of needless proportions. It stood on a by-road or lane, which was but little frequented. About the premises could be seen evidences of taste struggling for a more emphatic manifestation, but confined by imperative demands upon a limited treasury. With the deep interest which he always felt in his home and family he speaks of the homestead as having "associations which became dearer with the lapse of time . . . the very trees embodying memories which greatly enhanced their value."

As I read the indications of the record, Andrew, while still a youth, brooding (as above) over the condition and prospects of the estate, deliberately and determinedly set himself to a plan of life which should enable him to carry out his ambitions for the estate—and when Andrew Haswell really set himself, his coon, like Davy Crockett's, might as well come down.

In most of these people whom we have studied, their passion for service was universal, reaching from their doorstep to the far corners of the world, but in Andrew it was concentrated upon a few specific objects—first and foremost the interests of the family and the estate—then, in New York, the making of that city a politically clean, *and a beautiful* one.

What, then, specifically, were the things which Andrew wanted, and went out to seek? First, *money*, and plenty of it—and with it all the power which a thoroughly practical knowledge of the principles and processes of law would afford him in the handling of large affairs, especially in real estate transactions and conduct. That he avowedly set out to make a fortune is certified by the following extract from a letter written to him by his brother as Andrew was about to start forth:—"You leave us now with the hope and expectation of getting wealth. If God sees it to be best that you become rich, He will send abundant prosperity; but, if He sees that prosperity would be hurtful to you, He will in mercy

withold it, and you should pray that He would, for it will profit nothing to gain the whole world and lose one's soul."

Obviously the imperative need of money influenced him in the choice of the law as his profession, and so he went to New York, studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1844, and formed a partnership with Samuel J. Tilden (at one time Democratic candidate for the Presidency), with whom he was closely associated not only during Mr. Tilden's life, but as his executor after his death. He could have found no better school for acquiring the widest knowledge and experience in the handling of large affairs—and that it was highly lucrative is evidenced by the fact that when the grim task of ferreting out the Tweed Ring was turned over to him, his first step was to provide a war chest of a half million dollars, by pledging his own personal credit. So much, then for the first of his requirements, money and power.

The second requirement was to make himself the best possible *landscaper*. So during all his intensely busy life in New York, he was putting his soul into the study and practice of landscaping—*beautifying* a city—until his fame as such was nationwide. Chancellor MacCracken, of New York University, said, "He was constantly alive to the work of beautifying the city, whether by individual effort or as a member of one or another organization." A recent address at Fraunces Tavern declared that his thoughtfulness was woven into the structure and visible aspect of New York. Here we see it in a reserved acre of greensward; there in the curve of a graceful line, like the beautiful span of Washington Bridge, and somewhere else in a sweet sounding name, like Morningside Drive.

So the love of a family for its beautiful but only partially developed estate was blessing the metropolis and its environs—reaching to Niagara Falls, where the name of Bath Island was changed to "Green Hill," in grateful appreciation of his services in the beautification of that locality—and Andrew was well equipped for carrying out his dearest object.

After the death of Andrew, "the family weighed deliberately their strong desire to keep the estate as a family rendezvous, against its wonderful fitness to the use and perpetual enjoyment of the people of the City, and the public interests prevailed." *Green Hill Book*.

On August 10, 1905, this estate was formally offered to the city of Worcester for its assessed valuation of \$104,000, upon the condition that if it were called "Green Hill," and used forever as a public park, the five owners would jointly contribute the sum of \$50,000 toward the purchase price. This offer was accepted on November 6, and on December 28, 1905, the city of Worcester became the owner of Green Hill. *Green Hill Book.*

THE LINCOLN FARM

Present Site of the Worcester State Teachers College

Read before the Worcester Historical Society by

Dr. Albert Farnsworth, May 8, 1942

“These local annals are full of little things; names, dates, and facts; and rumors of every sort, which seem at first sight almost too trifling to be noticed, and yet, not only is it true that the general historian must essentially depend on the local, to a very considerable extent, for the mass of loose seeds from which the spirit of his narrative should be laboriously distilled; but it is also true that there is always a good deal of that spirit already made in such materials at his hand. They are full of rich meaning. They are graphic and characteristic in a high degree. They suggest far more than they say. They illustrate classes of men and ages of time. They are small but brilliant lights on the walls of the past, pouring floods of splendor from their little niches in the vast abysses around them.”¹

These local annals, these little things, these facts and names and dates; this groping through the dark corridors of the past may indeed seem trifling. But it is from the threads of local history that the larger pattern of national history is woven. This then is the spirit of the history of the site of the Worcester State Teachers College. These loose threads have been gathered from early Worcester newspapers, genealogies, school board records; from the fragile yet tenuous memories of aged men and women, from faded deeds and from surveyors' plots.

The first ingredient in the spirit of this narrative tastes of salt and smells of pure mountain air. Ages ago all New England lay deep beneath the sea. Vast geological periods elapsed before land appeared. In the course of time mountains of Alpine height and grandeur covered most of what is now New England. Gradually the ice, snow and rain wore away these mountains until only their stumps remain, leaving such landmarks as Mt. Wachusett and Asnebumskit, to recall their former magnificence. In the muck of sea bottom the rich soil of the Lincoln Farm, present site of the State Teachers College, was created.

¹*American Quarterly Review*, June, 1836.

Time rolled on. Some twenty-five thousand years ago the ice sheet descended upon New England and all the land was buried beneath vast fields of ice. It endured for a long time even moving over the surface of the land, grinding the rocks beneath it. Through the ages the rains fell upon the glacier; the sun melted it. Rock shod, the retreating glacier pushed huge boulders along its bottom and served as a mighty agency in transforming the land. It remade mountains, plateaus, plains, valleys, and hills. Every hill and valley, every bed of clay and bank of sand, every boulder and rounded pebble of Worcester, every river and lake, records the story of countless centuries of change wrought by the great hands of nature. The rolling character of the Lincoln Farm was created by the retreating Labrador Ice Sheet.

The beautiful hills among which Worcester nestles mask the fact that central Massachusetts is a plateau, with a general height of one thousand to eleven hundred feet above sea level. On the west it is bounded by the Wilbraham Mountains and Pelham Hills; on the east by an imaginary line passing through Westboro, Northboro, Leominster, Lunenburg, and Townsend. The Lincoln Farm was located near the eastern boundary of the central Massachusetts plateau.

The primeval forces of nature and generations of animal and human energy created for the Lincoln Farm a situation of great natural beauty, mingled valleys and hills, meadows and woodlands; wild glens and chasms; and in the distance far-off mountains rising in serried ridges; the Leicester Hills on the west; the chain of ponds, Patch's, Coes, stretching along the westerly edge of the farm.

For untold generations the Nipmuck Indians had raised corn and squash on this flat, rich land at the foot of the Leicester Hills, snared game in the uplands and caught fish in the streams. They knew full well that it was deep and fat soil. Their village was located in the hills to the west; the Tataessit Indians led by Sagamore Solomon. Little evidence remains of the occupation of this area by the Indians. Even the exact location of their villages is uncertain. Their trails have been lost. Their frail structures have disappeared. The only tangible evidence that the Indians once cultivated this site are the stone implements, arrowheads and bits of broken pottery found in the soil. Mrs. Margaret Lincoln Marcy, daughter of Mr. Winslow Sever Lincoln, has a vivid memory of a

large box of Indian relics kept in the cellar of the farmhouse, which her grandfather had gathered on the farm.

The Red Man's occupancy of this broken-up land was doomed. Events were taking place thousands of miles away which were to drive him from the land he had held for untold generations. King Henry VII, first of the Tudor line, had commissioned John Cabot to sail West and John Cabot claimed all America for the English king. And all the Tudors claimed this land, and the early Stuarts. The Puritans were a problem for handsome Charles I, and, glad to get rid of them, he granted a charter in 1628 to the Massachusetts Bay Company and title to all the land three miles north of the Merrimack and three miles south of the Charles and west by northwest to the sea.

Nearer crept the white man. The settlement of Boston in 1630 was quickly followed by the founding of towns in the interior. For a generation after the Puritans founded Boston nothing is recorded regarding the territory which is now Worcester.

The first grant of land in what is now Worcester was made in 1657 to Increase Nowell of Charlestown, Secretary of the Commonwealth. Five years later, one thousand acres were granted to the Church at Malden for the use of the ministry. In 1664, 250 acres were assigned to Ensign Thomas Noyes, of Sudbury. Not until 1673 were actual settlers enlisted in sufficient numbers to warrant making a plantation. Daniel Gookin negotiated with the Indians for the purchase of their lands. On July 13, 1674, he bought from them a tract of land eight miles square for which he paid twelve pounds of the lawful money of New England.

King Philip's War in 1675 forced the settlers to abandon their homes. A second settlement was abandoned for the same reason. The third and successful attempt was made in 1713. Jonas Rice, first permanent settler of Worcester, settled on Sagatabscot Hill. His brother, Gershom, soon followed him, followed shortly by Nathaniel Moore and Daniel Heywood. At the same time the General Court of the Bay Colony placed the authority to settle here in a group of men who were designated the "Proprietors of Worcester."

Daniel Heywood was one of these proprietors. The proprietors were assigned lots. A map showing the allotment of these lots was drawn by the late Ellery B. Crane and shows that the area which

later became the Lincoln Farm was assigned to Daniel Heywood. The Heywoods were large landowners in early Worcester. The records of the proprietors show that Daniel Heywood was granted forty acres in lots of ten acres each in the first apportionment and acquired further large tracts within the limits of Worcester. The Worcester County Abstract Company possesses the chain of titles to the land which later became the Lincoln Farm. The first link in the long chain was Daniel Heywood.

Daniel Heywood was born in Concord, April 18, 1696; came to Worcester in 1714. He resided on the site of the present Bay State House, where he, his son and grandson of the same name kept a hotel for nearly a century. For over fifty years he was a Deacon of the Old South Church. He served as Town Clerk and on the Board of Selectmen. Heywood died in 1773, was buried in the Village Burying Ground, now the Worcester Common. On the plan of this burying ground his lot is numbered 153. It is located near the Soldiers' Monument.

There were then no roads leading west with the exception of Hardwick Road, now Pleasant Street. So it seems highly probable that Daniel Heywood did not cultivate what is now the site of the Teachers College. As recorded in Book No. 81 and page 552 in the Registry of Deeds, Daniel Heywood on March 20, 1766, sold this land to Asa Moore, blacksmith, for forty pounds. It is interesting to note that Gardner and John Chandler, distinguished members of the family which later gave its name to the street which passes the State Teachers College, were witnesses to this deed.

Asa Moore was a man of considerable prominence in Worcester during the troubled years before and during the Revolution. In the Worcester Town Records, 1754-1763, appears this item: "Voted that a school be kept in the same way and manner as they were last year and that John Chandler, Jun^r & Tim. Paine Esq. and Mr. Asa Moore be a committee to provide a master for ye centre School." He served on the Worcester Committee of Correspondence along with Nathan Baldwin and Levi Lincoln, Sr.

On June 24, 1769, Asa Moore sold his farm to John Moore, his son. A map of early Worcester shows John Moore owning a large tract of land bounded by Patch's Pond on the west, to what is now May Street on the east and Pleasant Street on the north. Like his father, John Moore was a prominent citizen of Worcester.

The next proprietor of this land was Gideon Paine who on April 12, 1813, bought it from John Moore. Isaiah Thomas witnessed the deed.

Up to this time, 1813, there is no record of any buildings located on the tract of land. There has been a controversy over the age of the small house now located at the westerly junction of Chandler and May Streets. Some local historians have insisted that it is the oldest house, or one of the oldest, in Worcester. The evidence seems to point to a comparatively recent building of this house. The first mention of buildings erected on the site of the Lincoln Farm is in the transfer of this property by Gideon Paine to Isaac Davis on September 1, 1854. On that date Charles Hersey, executor of the will of Gideon Paine, sold to Isaac Davis the farm of seventy-two acres situated on May Street and all the buildings. Miss Holbrook, of Sutton, Massachusetts, was present at the May, 1942, meeting of the Worcester Historical Society when this paper was read. She stated that her grandfather was born in this house in the year 1841. Furthermore, there were no streets connecting this region with the main arteries of traffic until May Street was laid out in 1827. Of course this does not exclude dirt roads connecting Main and Pleasant streets. Beginning in 1849 Chandler Street was extended from Main to Irving Street; to Park Avenue in 1856; and from Park Avenue to Tatnuck Square in 1869. The evidence points to the building of this house by Gideon Paine. It was standing on the site of the present building of the State Teachers College when William Sever Lincoln bought the farm from one Isaac Davis.

Isaac Davis held many parcels of property in Worcester. A study of the deeds recorded in the Worcester County Court House reveals that the name of Isaac Davis appears on more deeds than that of any other man in Worcester County. A distinguished citizen of Worcester, he served on the first Board of Aldermen in 1848, and during the years 1856, 1858, and 1861 was Mayor of Worcester. On September 18, 1855, Isaac Davis sold his farm on May Street, seventy-three acres, and the buildings to William Sever Lincoln for \$4,500. For two generations the Lincoln family owned this property. It became known far and wide as the Lincoln or Willow Farm; the Willow Farm because of the huge willow trees which lined May Street.

The story of the Lincoln family begins in Hingham, Mass. In

the year 1637 Samuel Lincoln, of Hingham, England, emigrated and settled in Hingham, Mass. Mr. Waldo Lincoln, of Worcester, a descendant of Samuel, has traced some 3,200 members descended from the first Samuel, among whom were Abraham Lincoln and the distinguished Lincoln family of Worcester. One branch of this family migrated from Hingham to the Western plains, another to Worcester. These two branches crossed in 1848 on the occasion of Abraham Lincoln's visit to Worcester. He was entertained by Levi Lincoln, Jr., in his mansion on Elm Street, but neither realized their descent from a common ancestor.

Levi Lincoln, Sr., was the first of the Worcester Lincolns. He was active during the Revolution serving on the local Committee of Correspondence. Jefferson appointed him Attorney General of the United States, and during the year 1825 he was acting governor of Massachusetts. An active member of the Democratic Republican party he frequently wrote letters to the press attacking the Federalists, signing them "Farmer." The Federalists ridiculed him as Farmer Lincoln. His farm was a model. He introduced improved methods of agriculture and experimented with new breeds of cattle.

Several of his sons were equally distinguished. Enoch became governor of Maine; William, a distinguished historian; a third, Levi, Jr., served nine terms as governor of Massachusetts and was elected first Mayor of Worcester. Four of Levi, Jr.'s children played a prominent part in the history of Worcester—Daniel Waldo Lincoln was elected Mayor of Worcester in 1863 and 1864. His avocation was horticulture. On his farm he grew and exhibited two hundred varieties of pears. In his nursery located at the corner of Linden and Elm Streets, he raised silkworms and here he built a large tank in which to grow aquatic plants. For many years Edward Winslow Lincoln was Secretary of the Worcester Horticultural Society. He was the founder of the public park system of the United States. A third son, Captain George Lincoln, was killed in the Battle of Buena Vista. With a fourth son, William Sever Lincoln, this paper is especially concerned.

William Sever Lincoln was born in Worcester in the year 1811. Soon after his graduation from Bowdoin College he practiced law in Millbury, Massachusetts. He then moved to Alton, Illinois, where he became a Circuit Judge. He returned to Worcester in 1844. In 1855 he bought from Isaac Davis the farm which for two generations was a Worcester landmark.

Aided by his father, ex-Governor Levi Lincoln, Jr., he built the farmhouse fronting May Street and the great barns and ice house. The timbers were hand hewn. Most of the trees—maple, hemlock, oak and pine, which added beauty and lent distinction to the farm—were planted by Mr. Lincoln.

At that time Tatnuck was wholly a farming community. There were only twelve houses from Newton Square to Tatnuck. The Wetherell Farm was located at Newton Square and extended to Chandler Street; the Chamberlain farmhouse near Chamberlain Parkway, was built about the year 1825 by Andrew MacFarland; to the south Mr. Lincoln's neighbor was Jonas Hartshorn. Another neighbor was Amasa Southwick living at the corner of Mill and Chandler Streets. Mrs. Lincoln undoubtedly visited the Micah Johnson house on Mill Street, where Mrs. Johnson is said to have woven the first rag carpets in the United States. Rags to be woven into carpets were brought to her from great distances. The Gates farmhouse, still standing, was located opposite what is now the Tatnuck Church and, below, near Tatnuck Square, was located the Elkanah Rich farm. Slavery was the great problem in the days when the Lincoln farmhouse was built. The Liberty Farm house, built by Daniel Kimball, was then occupied by Stephen and Abbie Kelly Foster, famous abolitionists. And Mr. Lincoln was not unmindful of the slavery controversy. The George Newton house is one of the oldest landmarks at Tatnuck Square. It was built during the Revolution and for many years was kept as an Inn. Mr. Benjamin Flagg maintained it as a tavern of the old type. Archibald Willard maintained the famous Willard Tavern. The stagecoaches stopped there to change horses on their homeward trip from Boston to Paxton and Barre. This tavern was located where the Tatnuck School now stands. Here the neighborly farmers dropped in, and over a friendly mug of flip talked crops and politics; drank a toast to John Brown and discussed the fateful election of 1860. And among them were the Lincolns. There is a famous spring in Tatnuck, known as Silver Springs. For many years Mr. Charles Boynton, owner of Silver Springs, invited his neighbors to a general picnic on Bunker Hill Day. The land was cleared for croquet grounds and sports in general. Swings were erected for the children. Eminent speakers, among whom was Mr. William Sever Lincoln, recalled the glories of June 17, 1775. In this dignified, hos-

pitabile and cultured neighborhood Mr. Lincoln settled down to farming. Scarcely, however, was he settled in his new home when the Civil War broke out.

From a boy William Sever Lincoln had been interested in military affairs. He had served as Captain of the Worcester Light Infantry. It is interesting to note that Levi Lincoln in 1803 wrote the application to Governor Strong which led to the formation of the Worcester Light Infantry. John Waldo Lincoln, son of Levi Lincoln, Sr., was Captain of this Company in the War of 1812. Daniel Waldo Lincoln had served as Captain, as well as Levi and Winslow Sever Lincoln, sons of William Sever Lincoln. When the Civil War broke out Mr. Lincoln enlisted and served throughout the War. He was wounded, taken prisoner, escaped—an adventurous story—and for his services he was brevetted Brigadier General. On his return he carried on farming until his death in 1889.

Winslow Sever Lincoln succeeded his father as owner of the farm. His four children were magnets for the children of the neighborhood—picnics, the bridle path, the hickory nuts in the fall, the chestnuts on the giant tree on the hill near the Hartshorn farm; quail and partridge, the fields of windswept daisies, the colorful Hicks gypsies, who lived on the shores of Coes Pond, the skating parties on Patch's Pond, the furry folk, the raucous call of the crow, the clarion call of the oriole—memories.

True to the military tradition of his family, Winslow Sever Lincoln was commissioned Captain of the Worcester Light Infantry and served in the Spanish-American War. The hardships which he endured led to his death, which occurred in 1902.

His widow, Helen Blake Weber Lincoln, maintained the farm until 1918 when she moved to California to live with her son. Mrs. Lincoln was born in Chicago in the year 1858, daughter of Captain John Weber and Lydia McClellan Blake. Later she moved to Worcester, living with her aunt, Mrs. Edmund Barton. She attended the Worcester Normal School, graduating in the second class. For a few years she taught school. At the turn of the century women in politics were a novelty. In 1896 the city was divided into eight wards. One of the School Board members from Ward Eight was Mr. Frank Hayden, who died in office. Mrs. Lincoln was elected to fill out this unexpired term, and re-elected for a second three-year term, which expired in 1902. Perhaps because she owned a

horse and buggy, she was assigned as visitor to such widely separated schools as Abbott, Burncoat, Greendale, Northville, and Tattuck schools. Her interests were many. She was an outstanding member of the Shakespeare Club. Her beautiful voice reading *As You Like It* or the tragedy of *Hamlet* is remembered to this day.

The farmhouse was not occupied after the year 1918. Worcester citizens will long remember the red farmhouse, the large barn where at one time seventy-five head of cattle were kept, the stable, the shed for the wagons, the huge silo, the two-hundred-foot greenhouse, the ice house on the edge of the pond, the small building for cooling milk, the dog churn for churning butter, kept in motion by two large Newfoundland dogs.

For many years the Worcester Normal School had been seeking a new site. A beautiful site originally, the district surrounding its school had become congested. Agitation for a new site led to the selection of a Committee, headed by Superintendent Walter S. Young of the Worcester Public Schools. The present site of the State Teachers College was finally chosen. It was purchased in 1930 by the city of Worcester from Mr. George Rockwood, and presented by the city to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. Rockwood was the last private owner of the Lincoln Farm. For years he had made his home on May Street in the house now owned by Dr. Benjamin Alton. As time went on he added to his original holdings. In 1916 he purchased the Lincoln Farm.

And now the final chapter in this long story. Mr. Rockwood sold to the city of Worcester nearly twenty acres, west of the College grounds. He had already given to the city a park, of about thirteen acres. To the south of the College grounds houses were creeping up Hartshorn Hill. Between this hill and the College grounds was a tract of land consisting of thirty acres and owned by Mr. Rockwood. If it were cut up into house lots the beautiful setting of the College would be destroyed. The friends of the College were fearful. But during the spring of 1942, Mr. Rockwood expressed the desire to grant this land to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It would protect the College from being surrounded by "dog houses."

It was arranged that the deed to this land should be presented to the Commissioner of Education, Walter F. Downey, on the morning of Commencement, June 12, 1942. President Clinton C.

Carpenter of the Worcester State Teachers College introduced Mr. Rockwood, who expressed his satisfaction in deeding thirty acres of valuable land to the Commonwealth. "The Commonwealth takes, it is a pleasure for me to give." So ends the story of the legal transaction.

It is a story of local annals, full of little things; names, dates, and facts. The legal transfers have been numerous. But deeds do not constitute ownership—who owns this land?

The giant oak, to the south of the College, a sapling when Worcester was founded, which has bowed before a thousand storms, owns it; the feathered folk own it, the quarrelsome blue jays, the crows in twos and threes, the song sparrows, the meadow larks, the bell-like tones of the vesper sparrow, the pheasants hidden deep; the furry folk own it, the chattering squirrels, the furtive chipmunks; the flowers own it; the fields of white and yellow daisies bending in the wind; the mists own it, the sun and the stars, the winds and the storms.

“REQUIESCAT IN PACE”

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The annual report of the Director of a Historical Society such as this is not likely to be an exciting document. This is especially true when you consider that our activities cover much the same ground from year to year. Nevertheless there is always the variety which comes from the difference in the human element with whom we deal in our daily round of duties.

Let us consider then a day at the Museum, typical of many others, and some of the things we are called upon to do during the afternoon in question. On our arrival we find a group of youngsters awaiting us. Some have been here before and have brought their friends to indulge in the pleasure of the "Treasure Hunt." We register them, issue slips, and they are off to try and find some of the objects listed on their slips. Then, of course, the fun begins for them and our activities commence. Our slips, you should know, vary in sex and difficulty. Sex, meaning slips for boys, on which are to be found guns, swords and pistols, while for girls there is likely to be listed more dolls, dresses and household implements. Deliberately we have listed items to pique the curiosity, to stimulate the interest, and to enlarge the vocabulary of the youngsters. And then the questions arise; what is a pewter porringer, a butter mold, a shillalegh, what is carded wool, what do they do with teasels? A discussion leads to all sorts of bypaths of knowledge and the child is likely to learn those animals which give us wool for clothing, the butter-making process, whether hard-tack is palatable, and the difference between a tepee and a hogan. Interest is high, fun is rife, and we hum with activity. Through it all is woven certain essentials. Our visitors get the impression that the learning process is a pleasant one, that it is fun to "find things out." They learn too that Worcester is a center of Yankee Ingenuity, that here were first produced the typewriter, the eccentric cam, that from this county came those geniuses who gave us the cotton gin, the sewing machine, the spring bed, the cantilever bridge, the diver's helmet, things which affect their daily lives and make them more comfortable and conduce to their happiness. This is the basis for civic pride, the beginning of patriotism, both of which we constantly stress. You would be proud of the prompt and happy reactions the

youngsters show as we talk with them. Remember that in this city are to be found the strains of twenty-five different nationalities, and as many more admixtures, already. To help weave this racial warp and weft into the fabric of America is one of the happiest of the functions of this Society.

Our next visitor was an old resident recently returned to Worcester, who brought with him a mysterious looking bundle. Unwrapping it he produced an odd shaped and very old tool which was unlike any in our own collection though it resembled a few. We finally located an old sketch which showed it to be a type of fromm (frome, vrome) with which the colonists chipped shingles from straight grained butts. That question settled, there arose of course the use of tools and the clever craftsmanship of the early New England settlers, a subject which had become the hobby of our visitor and about which his remarks were highly interesting.

We were interrupted by the entrance of a new visitor, a woman accompanied by twelve-year-old twins. She was a refugee from Vienna, interested and intelligent. As we discussed together the charm of old Vienna and the beauty of the nearby Tyrol she interrupted with "Ah! But this country about here is beautiful too, so peaceful and calm—and remember that you have freedom—it is so good to be here." Her appreciation of just being in America was a thing we shall long remember.

At four o'clock a group of Girl Scouts arrived. They came to study early cooking utensils and we had prepared for them a display from the contents of the Museum. In laying out the display we had been surprised at the number and variety of things we found for our purpose. The girls spent a happy and profitable hour with the exhibition which proved so fascinating to later visitors that we are going to repeat it for their benefit.

During the last year we have received over 2,400 visitors to the Museum, or an average of more than a dozen a day. In March, our busiest month, as many as forty come in a single afternoon and in June the average falls to less than five. Out-of-town visitors seem to concentrate in the months of July and September. These people are frequently descended from Worcester stock and as a result of their visits we often receive gifts of heirlooms which properly should find resting place in the scene of their origin.

The Library is in constant receipt of a variety of documents of

local and historical interest which properly belong on its shelves. Lately, several volumes, illustrated, covering both the Civil and Spanish wars have been gratefully received. It was odd to see the name of General MacArthur associated with Manila and Corregidor as we read the pages of that earlier struggle in the far isles of the Pacific. We are proud too that Worcester is still the home of literary geniuses and that the volumes of Esther Forbes and Bruce Lancaster grace our shelves.

Our extra-curricular activities, so to speak, are varied and amusing. They concern themselves mainly with answering questions which come to us by letter or telephone and deal largely with genealogical and historical data. We answer what we can but occasionally get a poser as for instance, last week, a feminine voice demanded "Are the Choctaw Indians of Negro descent?" We hazarded a guess that they were not and let it go at that. The amount of research we are called upon to do fills in our spare time, adds to our knowledge and adds piquancy to our Museum existence.

Our needs are not great. We would like some nice old china, a few pieces of antique furniture and we seek vainly for that old cobbler's bench and oh, yes, we agree with Clarence Darrow. He was asked by a gushing client one day, "How shall I ever show my appreciation?" to which he answered, "My dear woman, ever since the Phoenicians invented money there has only been one answer to that question."

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

To the Members of the Worcester Historical Society:

The Treasurer respectfully submits his report as of May 31, 1942.

For the first time in four years the Society has operated without a loss, the excess of income over expense for the year being \$67.78. The total expenses were \$2,686.38, and the total income \$2,754.13.

Investment income this past year amounted to \$1,753.13, a reduction of \$46.37. Membership dues, however, increased from \$681.00 to \$895.00. Incidental income amounted to \$106.00, practically the same as for the preceding year. Expenses are kept at a minimum, and this year amounted to \$2,686.38, an increase over last year of only \$11.97.

The customary check for \$100.00 was given by the Hester N. Wetherell Estate, and was gratefully received.

We are glad to report that no security owned by the Society is in default.

It is obvious, of course, that a large part of the income received by the Society is from membership dues. This is collected as a result of more or less effort, but the Treasurer would be greatly helped if the members, through their personal contacts, would encourage payment of dues and renewed interest in the work of the Society.

Respectfully submitted,

DWIGHT S. PIERCE,
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

This brief summary of the activities of the Worcester Historical Society is to be read in connection with that of the Executive Director, the two reports giving a fairly clear and complete idea of what has been done during the past year. It may be noted here that the Secretary is submitting no formal report, the two reports here recorded comprising what the Secretary's report would give.

As has been the custom in recent years, the Worcester County Historical Society planned an outing to be held early in June, the place to be Sutton and that locality, a district furnishing much of real historical value. Unfortunately the rationing of gasoline, which took effect in May, caused the officers of the County Society to postpone indefinitely the Sutton excursion. This action was regrettable but seemed necessary. It is earnestly hoped that this visitation may be held at some future date, Sutton offering many interesting historical places.

The first meeting of the Worcester Historical Society took the form of a Colonial Dinner, following the custom of recent years. The dinner was held Friday evening, November fourteenth, at the Y.W.C.A. The attendance was unusually large, many coming in colonial costume. There was no formal speaking, but many present were called upon for remarks, and responded.

No meeting is ever held by the Society in December, the first meeting of the new year coming on the evening of January ninth. Mr. Robert K. Shaw presented a most interesting paper on "Some Fosters and Some Others."

The speaker at the February meeting, on the evening of the thirteenth, was Secretary Nathan Rice, whose subject was "Wells." This paper was especially of local interest and provoked much discussion on the part of those present. At the March meeting, on the evening of the thirteenth, Mr. C. C. Ferguson read the paper on "The Many-sided and Adventurous Stephen Hopkins." This paper proved as interesting as its predecessors, and gave a clear idea of the man and of what he did.

Mr. Chandler Bullock, at the meeting on April tenth, discussed "An Interesting Episode in Early Political History in Worcester." Naturally this discussion, by a Worcester man so well versed in the

political history of the city, proved most interesting and provoked many questions.

The last meeting of the season, at which a speaker was to be heard was on the evening of May eighth, the speaker being Dr. Albert Farnsworth, the subject "The Site of the Worcester State Teachers College." Dr. Farnsworth traced the title to this land from the earliest times, bringing it down to date, and emphasizing the fact that at one time, and for many years, the land belonged to the famous Lincoln family.

The Annual Meeting came on the evening of June twelfth, and was devoted, as usual, to reports, to the election of officers for the coming year, and to a general discussion of plans and policies for the future. Of especial interest was the report of the Treasurer, showing not only a sound condition financially but a balance of \$67.78 in the treasury. The officers for the year 1942-1943 are listed earlier in this book.

It was the opinion of the members present that the plan of former years should be followed, the usual meetings with speakers being held, the Colonial Dinner in November, but no formal addresses or papers being planned for this event or for the Annual Meeting. It was the unanimous opinion that the Publication be continued as in former years.

The President read the list of members who have died during the past year, and those present stood a moment in silent tribute. The names follow:

Andrew W. Sigourney
Leon A. Goodale
Mrs. Walter Evans
A. Otis Davis

At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting refreshments were served under the direction of Mrs. Cross.

The report of Executive Director Cross will appear in this Publication, supplementing the very brief summary given in this report of the President. The report of the Executive Director indicates clearly the important place occupied by the Society in the city and even far outside the city. Not only does the Society welcome to its rooms large numbers of visitors, young and old, but its officers are constantly appealed to, from all over the country, for aid in solving

problems of local history, of genealogy, and of similar import. This endless work is not apparent to the general public, and is known to but few of the members, but all requests are met, in so far as this is practicable, in so far as the limitations of time, financial support, and other considerations permit.

The President cannot too strongly express his appreciation of the faithful and efficient service of his fellow-officers, Secretary Rice and Treasurer Pierce, nor can he overemphasize his appreciation of the splendid and faithful service and coöperation of the staff, Executive Director Cross, assisted by Mrs. Cross, Miss Reid, and Mr. Waite.

