

**BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT  
SUDBURY, MASS., APRIL 18,  
1876. FULL REPORT OF  
EXERCISES, INCLUDING THE  
ORATION; PP. 3-43**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649298037

Bi-centennial celebration at Sudbury, Mass., April 18, 1876. Full report of exercises, including the oration; pp. 3-43 by Edward J. Young

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**EDWARD J. YOUNG**

**BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT  
SUDBURY, MASS., APRIL 18,  
1876. FULL REPORT OF  
EXERCISES, INCLUDING THE  
ORATION; PP. 3-43**



BI-CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION

AT SUDBURY, MASS.

APRIL 18, 1876.

FULL REPORT OF EXERCISES,

INCLUDING THE ORATION

BY

PROF. EDWARD J. YOUNG,

OF HARVARD COLLEGE.

---

PUBLISHED BY  
THE TRUSTEES OF THE GOODNOW LIBRARY,  
1876.

## ORATION.

---

### FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

We are living in a year that is crowded with historic recollections. The incidents connected with the war of our independence have been so fully rehearsed to us, that that period is almost as familiar as the present. To-day, however, we meet to commemorate an event which took place long before the stirring scenes of the Revolution, when Massachusetts was not yet a State, nor even a province, but only a colony. While the nation is celebrating its centennial with great joy, you mark this year as your two hundredth anniversary. Your ancient town has a history and has memorials such as none of the modern ones can claim, which must ever give to it a peculiar interest. And there is a charm in reverting to those early days, which were so different from ours, when the red man roamed through the forests, and nature was in her primitive simplicity, and the first settlers had just obtained a foothold in the country. We go back to that time with the same feelings of wonder as when we meet with the evidences of Roman civilization in

England. As the traveller to that country is astonished to find in the very heart of London, under the Coal Exchange, a Roman bath which is connected with the river Thames, which is furnished with stone seats and is still admirably preserved, so the visitor who comes for the first time to this region is surprised to learn that here are buildings still standing which were erected when the aborigines possessed the land, and that a deadly battle was fought here with the representatives of a race which has since entirely disappeared, in which the most heroic courage was exhibited and the most terrible sufferings were endured by our ancestors a hundred years previous to the birth of the republic. Yet, though that age seems somewhat distant, two centuries is not a long period in the life of a people. In the little university town of Göttingen in Germany there is a house that was built before America was discovered; and within a few hours' journey from it is a cathedral, the crypt of which is said to date back to the age of Charlemagne. There is no such desire in that country to destroy the ancient edifices as seems in many places to prevail with us.

In order that we may be able to understand the circumstances of that time, let us glance at the condition of this place as it then existed, a picture of which we may derive from the earliest records, from the statements of contemporary historians, and from other original sources of information.

Sudbury was first settled as early as 1638, and the township was established in 1639, less than a score of years after the landing at Plymouth. It was five

miles square, and was bounded by Watertown on one side and by the wilderness on another, and, according to an old map published in 1677, it joined Concord, Groton and Marlborough. The number of original inhabitants was fifty-four, and among them we find the names of Goodnow, Hunt, Bent, Loker, Maynard, Parmenter, Rutter, and shortly after we meet with Grout, Brigham, Willis and others. The earliest settlements were on the east side of the river, in what is now Wayland. Here, in the old burying ground, the first meeting-house was built in 1642, which was a log house of one story, eight feet high, having six windows; and every man was ordered to attend the raising of it, or send a substitute, or else forfeit two shillings and sixpence for his default. Here, also, the second meeting-house was erected in 1652; and it was voted that there should be a convenient place for the storing of the ammunition of the town over the window in the southwest gable of it, and afterward it was surrounded by a stockade, as a defence against the Indians. The earliest burials were made near this spot; and on an old tombstone may still be deciphered this inscription:

HERE · LYETH · Y<sup>E</sup> · BODY · OF · ANNE  
 Y<sup>E</sup> · WIFE · OF · CAP · EDMOND · GOOD  
 ENOW · WHO · DYED · Y<sup>E</sup> · 9 · OF · MA  
 RCH | 1675: | AGED · 67 · YEARS  
           6

This stone, which lies in a horizontal position, as it was originally placed, was inscribed a year before



the battle in this town. There are other slabs, bearing the dates 1676 and 1688.\*

Undoubtedly the principal cause of the very early occupancy of this "plantation," as it was then called, was the luxuriantcy of the meadows, where the grass is described as being thick and strong and as high as a man's middle, and some as high as the shoulders, so that one could cut three loads in a day. They were, however, liable to be overflowed, and a writer of that period says of the town that it is "furnished with great plenty of fresh marsh, but it lying very low, is much indamaged by land floods, insomuch that when the summer proves wet they lose part of their hay; yet are they so sufficiently provided that they take in cattle of other towns to winter." † In 1668, the river mead-

\* Each slab is about six feet long by two and a half feet wide. The letters generally have dots between them, and there are some interlineations. The following is an exact copy of the inscriptions:

HERE · LYETH · Y<sup>e</sup> · BODY · OF · IOSEPH  
GODDENOW · WHO · DYED · Y<sup>e</sup> · 20 · OF  
MAY · 1676 · AGED · 51 · YERS

FEBY · 10 · 1681  
HEARE · LYETH · Y<sup>e</sup> · PREVIOUS  
DYST · OF · THAT · EMENT · SARA<sup>NT</sup>  
OF · GOD · CAP · EDMOND · GOOD  
ENOW · WHO · DIED · YE · 77<sup>years</sup> · OF · HIS  
AYGE · APRIL · YE · 6 · 1688

† Johnson, History of New England, 1654, p. 141. The same writer says: "This Towne is very well watered and hath store of plow-land, but by reason of the oaken roots they have little broke up, considering the many Acres the place affords; but this kinde of land requires great strength to break up, yet brings very good crops, and lasts long without mending; the people are industrious and have encreased in their estates, some of them, yet the great distance it lyes from the Mart Towns maketh it burdensome to the Inhabitants to bring their corne so far by land; some Gentlemen here have laid out part of their estates in procuring farmes, by reason of the store of meadow."

ows were so completely flooded that those who hired them were released from payment of the rent. Four years after the incorporation of the town a ferry was established, which was kept by Thomas Noyes for one year, and he was allowed to take twopence for a single passenger and a penny a head for a greater number. Ten years later, we are told, the causeway was so much injured in the spring by the heavy rains that an extra rate was voted to repair it, and the surveyors were authorized to call out men for the work. In 1659, a new mill for grinding the corn of the town was built on the site of the old one at Hop-brook, and a new highway was laid out from the gravel pits on the west side of the river to the said mill, six rods wide. The making of tar from the huge pines in the forest became quite a lucrative business, so that persons came over from the neighboring towns, cut down the trees, and were sued for trespass.

We can learn what was raised on the farms by noting what was voted as the salary of the minister. The first pastor of the church, which was the nineteenth built in Massachusetts, Rev. Edmund Brown, was paid forty pounds a year; and the second pastor, Rev. James Sherman, was offered his choice — either sixty pounds in money, or eighty pounds, half in money and the other half in “country pay at country price.” This latter included pork, beef, mutton, butter, cheese, wheat, rye, Indian corn, peas, hemp and flax. The spinning-wheel was then a necessary article in every family, and homespun fabrics were universal. All neat cattle above a year old, it was required, should be herded and put in charge of some person, and

sixpence a head was the penalty for every one found without a keeper. Swine must have a yoke on their necks and a ring in their snouts to prevent rooting, and damage to the corn. "The bottom part of every yoke is to be as long as the swine (standing upon his fore feet) is high from the ground to the top of his shoulder; and sticks that are placed up and down through the yoke are to be six inches higher than the neck and three inches lower than the bottom of the yoke that is usually placed acrosswise under his throat (for all swine of a year old and upward, and so proportionably for all swine that are younger); only the fine on abovesaid penalty [6d.] shall not be required or paid above once in one day." These yokes must be worn from the fifteenth of April to the end of the Indian harvest. In the woods were found bears, deer, raccoons, wild-cats, wolves and foxes. A bounty of one shilling and sixpence was offered for every fox killed within the limits of the town, ten shillings and even twenty shillings were promised for every wolf, while a penny was given for every jay and every woodpecker. There were also beavers and otters in such numbers that a considerable trade was done in furs, which was a source of profit to the government.

Since this was a frontier town, it was exposed to the inroads of the Indians. Here formerly had been their habitations, as the numerous arrow-heads which are picked up every year in various parts of Wayland and Sudbury attest. On the table before you are many interesting antiquities, such as stone gauges (one of them ribbed and rudely ornamented), stone chisels, a stone axe, a stone plummet, and so forth. I hold in