

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAINE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ON THE
OCCASION OF A COMPLIMENTARY
DINNER TO JAMES WARE
BRADBURY, JUNE 10, 1887**

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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

ON THE OCCASION OF

A COMPLIMENTARY DINNER

TO

JAMES WARE BRADBURY, LL. D.
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY,

ON HIS EIGHTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY,

JUNE 10, 1887.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

TO

HON. JAMES WARE BRADBURY, LL. D.

At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Maine Historical Society, held in Portland, March 10, 1887, on motion of Hon. William Gould, of Windham, it was voted that meetings of the Society be held on the tenth day of June next, and as that day is the eighty-fifth anniversary of the birth of the honored President of the Society, Hon. James Ware Bradbury, LL. D., of Augusta, it was also voted that the Society observe the day in some especial manner. Messrs. Henry L. Chapman, James P. Baxter, John Marshall Brown, Lewis Pierce, and Hubbard W. Bryant, were appointed a committee to confer with Mr. Bradbury and make suitable arrangements.

The following letter was addressed to him: —

PORTLAND, MAINE, April 11, 1887.

HON. JAMES W. BRADBURY, *President of the Maine Historical Society, Augusta, Me.*

DEAR SIR, — In behalf of the Standing Committee and the membership of the Historical Society, we have the honor to tender to you a complimentary dinner on the occasion of the approaching meeting of the Society (June

10th), and to ask your acceptance of the same. We regard it as fortunate that the meeting of the Society could be fixed upon a day which is also the anniversary of your birth, since it is desired to make the occasion a testimonial of personal respect as well as a recognition of your faithful and valuable services as President of the Society.

Trusting that you will, not unwillingly, accede to the desire of ourselves and of those whom we represent, we have the honor to be,

With high esteem, very truly yours,

HENRY L. CHAPMAN,
 JAMES P. BAXTER,
 JOHN MARSHALL BROWN,
 LEWIS PIERCE,
 H. W. BRYANT,

Committee.

It was replied to as follows:—

AGUSTA, April 13, 1887.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, inviting me to a complimentary dinner, at the next meeting of our Society on the 10th of June.

The invitation comes from gentlemen with whom I have been so long and so intimately associated in the prosecution of a patriotic work, and who are esteemed by me so highly, it would be puerile weakness in me to pretend to be insensible to such a testimonial of regard. While the environments of age incline me to withdraw from scenes where I cannot be useful, or contribute to the enjoyment of the occasion, I yet feel that I ought not to decline an invitation so kindly conceived and so gracefully tendered.

Most respectfully yours,

JAMES W. BRADBURY.

Arrangements for the complimentary banquet were made by the committee, and invitations were extended to the members of the Society to participate in the same. The presidents of the several Historical Societies of New England, and the surviving college classmates of Mr. Bradbury, were invited to become the guests of the Society on the occasion.

On the evening of the 10th of June, at six o'clock, the members of the Society and their guests assembled in the parlors of the Falmouth Hotel. Prominent among them was the special guest of the occasion, Hon. James W. Bradbury, President of the Society, whose birthday the gentlemen present had assembled to honor. With his bright clear eye and erect figure, he belied his eighty-five years, whose almost only sign was betokened by his long snow-white hair. Among the other guests who attracted great attention was the revered Ex Vice-President of the United States, Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, who, at the age of seventy-eight, appeared younger than many men of sixty. It is a rare circumstance that two men who have attained such distinction as Mr. Bradbury and Mr. Hamlin can be found both residents of the same State, the one representing its leading Historical Society by the highest office in its gift, and the other that of the leading Historical Society of the eastern part of the Commonwealth. They served together as Senators in the United States Senate nearly forty years ago.

James Ware Bradbury was born June 10th, 1802, at Parsonsfield, York County, Maine, where his father, Dr. James Bradbury, was a physician of eminence. He graduated at Bowdoin College in the class of 1825, that included Longfellow, Hawthorne, and J. S. C. Abbott, among its members. He taught the Hallowell Academy for a year, and then studied law with Mr., afterwards Judge, Shepley, and with Rufus McIntyre. In 1830, Mr. Bradbury settled in Augusta, where he devoted himself to his profession. He edited the "Maine Patriot" for one year, and was also County Attorney. In 1844, first as a nominating delegate at Baltimore, and afterwards as President of the Maine Electoral College, he assisted in making Mr. Polk President of the United States. In 1846 he was elected a United States Senator. He had hardly taken his seat in 1847 when he was called on by the death of his colleague, Senator Fairfield, to pronounce the customary eulogy. During his entire connection with the Senate he held a place on the committee on the judiciary, and was chairman of the committee on printing. He was chairman of the committee on the French spoliation claims and made an elaborate speech on the bill in favor of the claimants, which passed the Senate by a large majority. He declined a reelection before the expiration of his term of office. He was an overseer and is now a trustee of Bowdoin College. On the death of Prof. Cleaveland he was chosen Corresponding Secretary of the Maine Historical

Society, and on the death of Judge Bourne, its President.

After a half hour passed in social intercourse and the extension of congratulations to the venerable President, the company repaired to the small dining-room for dinner. The cozy apartment seemed all the brighter and more cheerful in its new and rich furnishings, its flowering plants that bedecked the windows, and were artistically grouped about the apartment, the tables adorned with large bouquets of rare flowers, and cut flowers trailing in odd designs over the snowy napery, while at each of the plates was placed a choice *boutonniere*. A superb basket of roses and ferns from Mrs. George T. Davis, and an elegant bouquet from Mrs. J. B. Brown, were placed in front of Mr. Bradbury. The gentlemen present, as will be seen by the names, formed a representative assemblage in the men of letters of Maine. At the head of the table sat Prof. Henry L. Chapman, of Bowdoin College, president of the occasion. At his right was seated President Bradbury. The guests were as follows:—

Rev. Dr. H. S. Burrage,	James P. Baxter,
Dr. W. B. Lapham,	Hon. Cyrus Woodman,
Hon. Sidney Perham,	Judge John A. Waterman,
Henry Deering,	Gen. John Marshall Brown,
Lewis Pierce,	Edward H. Elwell,
Stephen Berry,	Hon. Marshall Cram,
Rev. Dr. Asa Dalton,	Lemuel H. Cobb,
Hon. William Goold,	Hon. Charles F. Libby,

Hon. T. H. Haskell,	Hon. E. P. Burnham,
Philip Henry Brown,	Oscar Holway,
Rev. Dr. John O. Fiske,	Chief Justice J. A. Peters,
H. W. Richardson,	Hon. J. W. Symonds,
Edward Johnson,	Hon. Lewis Barker,
Hon. S. F. Humphrey,	George F. Talbot,
Hon. Joseph Williamson,	Dr. H. C. Levensaler,
Abner C. Goodell, Jr.,	Ex-Gov. Selden Connor,
Hon. Hannibal Hamlin,	Hon. Nathan Cleaves,
Hon. J. W. Bradbury,	John M. Adams,
Prof. H. L. Chapman,	H. W. Bryant.
Hon. Charles Deane,	

The *menu* of the dinner was a two-page card, and bore on the obverse side, —

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
Complimentary Dinner to
Hon. JAMES WARE BRADBURY, LL. D.,
On the 85th Anniversary of his Birthday,
1802 — June 10 — 1887.
Falmouth Hotel, Portland,
6 P. M.

On the second page was the *menu* proper, which, while not elaborate in number of dishes, embraced many delicacies, specially imported for the occasion, perfectly cooked. The service was such as has become a marked feature of this house. The following was the *menu*: —

Little Neck Clams.
Clear Green Turtle Soup.
Boiled Penobscot Salmon — Egg Sauce.
Small Potatoes. Asparagus — Cream Sauce.
Roast Spring Lamb — Mint Sauce.
Butter Beans. Green Peas.
Baked Mashed Potatoes.