

**CELEBRATION OF THE TWO-HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF
BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS, AT WEST
BRIDGEWATER, JUNE 3, 1856; INCLUDING
THE ADDRESS BY HON. EMORY WASHBURN,
OF WORCESTER; POEM BY JAMES REED**

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Celebration of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, at West Bridgewater, June 3, 1856; Including the Address by Hon. Emory Washburn, of Worcester; Poem by James Reed by Bridgewater (Mass) & Emory Washburn & James Reed

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BRIDGEWATER (MASS) & EMORY WASHBURN & JAMES REED

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BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS, AT WEST
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BRIDGEWATER

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

A MEETING of citizens of the four Bridgewaters* was held at the Town-hall in West Bridgewater, Feb. 2, 1856, pursuant to public notice, to consider the expediency of celebrating the Second Centennial Anniversary of the Incorporation of the ancient town of Bridgewater, on the third day of June, 1856. Hon. JOHN A. SHAW, of Bridgewater, was chosen Chairman; and FRANKLIN AMES, Esq., of North Bridgewater, Secretary.

It was resolved unanimously to hold such a celebration at West Bridgewater, where the first white inhabitants of the old town settled; and a Committee of forty-eight was chosen, consisting of twelve persons from each of the Bridgewaters, to make all the arrangements therefor, and carry the same into ex-

* BRIDGEWATER was incorporated June 3, 1656.
NORTH BRIDGEWATER, June 15, 1821.
WEST BRIDGEWATER, February 16, 1822.
EAST BRIDGEWATER, June 14, 1823.

cution. Said Committee consisted of the following persons : —

Jonathan Copeland, Albe Howard, Pardon Copeland, Nahum Leonard, Nahum Snell, Thomas Ames, James Alger, Henry H. Whitman, Joseph Kingman, Austin Packard, Calvin Williams, and Dwelley Fobes, *of West Bridgewater.*

John A. Shaw, Artemas Hale, Philander Leach, Horace Ames, John Edson, Williams Latham, Thomas Cushman, David Perkins, Spencer Leonard, jun., Abram Washburn, Mitchell Hooper, and Calvin B. Pratt, *of Bridgewater.*

Welcome Young, William Allen, Azor Harris, James H. Mitchell, Samuel B. Allen, Benjamin W. Harris, Asa Mitchell, Aaron Hobart, jun., James Bates, Nathan Whitman, Seth Bryant, and Hector O. A. Orr, *of East Bridgewater.*

Eliab Whitman, Edward Southworth, jun., Perez Marshall, Franklin Ames, Ellis Packard, Martin L. Keith, George W. Bryant, Henry W. Robinson, Henry Howard, Isaac Kingman, Samuel Dunbar, and Jonas R. Perkins, *of North Bridgewater.*

It was decided by the Committee of Arrangements to have an address, a poem, and a dinner ; and Austin Packard, Artemas Hale, William Allen, and Edward Southworth, jun., were chosen a Committee to procure suitable persons to deliver the address and poem, and to employ the services of such clergymen as they might think proper.

Joseph Kingman, Calvin Williams, Henry H. Whitman, Mitchell Hooper, Williams Latham, Calvin B. Pratt, Benjamin W. Harris, James Bates, James H. Mitchell, Ellis Packard, Martin L. Keith, and George W. Bryant, were chosen a Committee to fix upon a definite plan of procedure, and report at the adjournment of the meeting.

In pursuance of the report of the last-named Committee, the following officers were chosen:—

President of the Day.

J O H N A. S H A W.

Vice-Presidents.

NAHUM LEONARD.	EZEKIEL WHITMAN.
JONATHAN COPELAND.	AARON HOBART.
BENJAMIN B. HOWARD.	WELCOME YOUNG.
WILLIAM BAYLIES.	CUSHING MITCHELL.
PARDON KEITH.	AZOR HARRIS.
ARTEMAS HALE.	ELIAS WHITMAN.
SAMUEL LEONARD.	SAMUEL DUNBAR.
PHILIP E. HILL.	JOSIAH W. KINGMAN.
HOLMES SPRAGUE.	EDWARD SOUTHWORTH.
SOLOMON ALDEN.	FRANKLIN AMES.

Treasurer.

AUSTIN PACKARD.

Chief Marshal.

AARON R. DRAKE.

Assistant Marshals.

THOMAS AMES.	JAMES BATES.
GEORGE L. ANDREWS.	FRANCIS M. FRENCH.

Toast-Master.

BENJAMIN W. HARRIS.

Assistant Toast-Masters.

JOSEPH KINGMAN.		GEORGE W. BRYANT.
		DAVID PERKINS.

Committee of Finance.

DWELLEY FOSB.		NATHAN WHITMAN.
ROBERT PERKINS.		GEORGE W. BRYANT.

Committee on Sentiments, Invitations, and Reception of Guests.

AUSTIN PACKARD.		WILLIAM ALLEN.
JOSEPH KINGMAN.		ASA MITCHELL.
JOHN A. SHAW.		EDWARD SOUTHWORTH, jun.
ARTEMAS HALE.		JONAS R. PERKINS.

Committee on Music.

NAHUM SNELL.		EZRA KINGMAN.
SOLOMON KEITH.		ELLIS PACKARD.

Executive Committee.

THOMAS AMES.		WILLIAMS LATHAM.
HENRY H. WHITMAN.		CALVIN B. PRATT.
CALVIN WILLIAMS.		JAMES H. MITCHELL.
GEORGE WILBAR.		SETH BRYANT.
AMASA HOWARD.		ELLIS PACKARD.
		MARTIN L. KEITH.

Committee to print the Address and Poem, with a Report of the Celebration.

AUSTIN PACKARD.		WILLIAM ALLEN.
ARTEMAS HALE.		FRANKLIN AMES.

Committee to prepare an Address to those who may celebrate the Third Centennial Anniversary.

JOSEPH KINGMAN.		WILLIAM ALLEN.
DWELLEY FOSB.		ASA MITCHELL.
JOHN A. SHAW.		EDWARD SOUTHWORTH, jun.
THOMAS CUSHMAN.		PAUL COUCH.

The Chief Marshal was authorized to appoint his aids, and the Assistant Marshals their aids.

The Executive Committee was authorized to act upon and decide all matters not specially assigned to any other Committee.

The several towns appropriated their proportion of one thousand dollars towards defraying the expenses of the celebration.

And the Committee on Printing was directed to enclose the various documents, relating to the Celebration, in a box, and deposit the same in the town-safe at Bridgewater, for the use of those who may celebrate the Third Centennial Anniversary.

The ringing of the bells on all the churches in the four towns, and the discharge of cannon, announced the dawn of the Centennial Day. The weather was as pleasant as could be desired, and a large number of people assembled to join in the festivities of the occasion.

Several places of historical note were appropriately designated, among which were the following:—

"CENTRE TREE."

A stone monument now occupies the place where the Centre Tree formerly stood. It was long known as the centre of Bridgewater, and was established, pursuant to an order of the Court at Plymouth, soon