

**ADDRESS AT THE DEDICATION OF  
THE DEXTER MEMORIAL TOWN  
HALL, CHARLTON, MASS.  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY THE  
TWENTY-FIRST, 1905**

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Address at the Dedication of the Dexter Memorial Town Hall, Charlton, Mass. Tuesday,  
February the Twenty-First, 1905 by Charles J. McIntire

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**CHARLES J. MCINTIRE**

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AT THE  
DEDICATION OF THE  
Dexter Memorial Town Hall  
CHARLTON, MASS.  
BY  
HON. CHARLES J. McINTIRE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY THE  
TWENTY-FIRST  
1905

WITH EXERCISES, AND AN  
APPENDIX

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PRIVATE COPY

1906



WILLIAM H. DEXTER

# PROGRAMME

## Afternoon

TWO-THIRTY O'CLOCK

PRAYER	-	-	REV. GEORGE O. JENNESS
SELECTION	-	-	SCHUMANN QUARTETTE
INTRODUCTORY	-	-	RUFUS B. DODGE
PRESENTATION of <i>Town Hall and Library</i> <i>Building to Charlton</i>	-	-	WILLIAM H. DEXTER
ACCEPTANCE	-	-	A. FREDERICK PUTNAM <i>Chairman of Selectmen</i>
SELECTION	-	-	SCHUMANN QUARTETTE
ADDRESS	-	-	HON. CHARLES J. MCINTIRE
SELECTION	-	-	SCHUMANN QUARTETTE
BENEDICTION	-	-	REV. GEORGE H. ROGERS

## Evening

EIGHT O'CLOCK

CONCERT	-	-	REEVES' AMERICAN BAND
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NINE O'CLOCK

DEDICATION BALL





## Introductory Address by Rufus B. Dodge

**T**HE spreading growth of the colonies settled on the hills of New England. Hardy as the Norseman, bold as the Carthaginian, industrious and indomitable, the Puritan in religion and the patriot in state, leveled the forest, cleared the lands, built towns and villages, while buffeted by hardship and threatened by savages.

Governor Bradford has told of the Plymouth Pilgrims a graphic story of death and misery, most appalling to the present living, all of which had been anticipated before the company started on their journey in search of civil and religious liberty, and in contemplation of which those intrepid spirits said:

“It is not with us as with other men, whom small things can discourage, or small discontentments cause to wish themselves at home again.”

Sickness and exposure had the first season taken one-half the Plymouth Pilgrims, and yet not one of the survivors returned with the ship in the spring. The hearts of the remaining living beat strong with a great purpose, like pulse of ocean tide, impelled by unknown but resistless force to work out Nature's purpose.

The settlement of New England was but an extension of Plymouth's people and those of like fibre and pur-

pose. The hills of Massachusetts became sites of towns and hamlets, cleared by tireless industry, defended by bravery valiant as Caesar's, faithful as Leonidas'. Church, town meeting, and school were the three primal objects of public concern wherever settlements were established. Life itself was not dearer to those people than were these three institutions in which their most earnest interest centered, and which were justly thought to constitute the corner-stone, arch key and crowning protection of their government structure.

Thus was Charlton founded, by men, of quality richer than nobility, more royal in democracy than a king on his throne. On every page of her early records is reflected the essence of self-government by a people of Puritan strictness. Dissimulation in community affairs was unknown. Public deliberation was without favoritism, showing a spirit in ordinary matters surprising but refreshing to our own time. Couched in crude language the recorded votes, however, left no doubt as to meaning or sincerity. The will of a people ruled without a hindrance, lacking no vigor in initiative or execution. The times and vigorous, rugged intellect produced sturdy character. Families carried marked traits through generations because character and mental strength were dominant forces, while weakness, indolence and faint decision were a reproach.

The history of Charlton has been honorable throughout. Her citizens have become known in every business and profession. Her name has been in honor carried across the continent by Towne and around the globe by Morton. She has sent soldiers to fight in every war, citizens to every state. She has seen the

sturdy qualities of the first settlers continued through succeeding generations to this day, guiding true, public affairs down through the course of years. The loom of time is never idle; the busy shuttle of current events flies rapidly, carrying into design strands of the hour, be they strong or weak, but if from the beam of the past there is supplied the honest homespun warp of original New England life, the garment of equal rights will still clothe a people in full splendor of perfect liberty.

With justified pride we are here to receive, at the hands of one whose ancestor felled the first trees and planted the first community on the soil of the town beloved by us all, a gift so munificent and timely, it comes like a rich benediction from a son to his mother. Our benefactor of to-day is worthy of his ancestry. The qualities of his family have not weakened during the many intervening years since Obadiah McIntire, of whom Mr. Dexter is a descendant, built the first house in Charlton.

William H. Dexter was born in the western part of Charlton, January 11, 1823, in a house that has since burned down, but the site of which can still be seen. His father was John B. Dexter, a carpenter and contractor, born in Marlboro, Mass., and his mother was Lucinda McIntire, daughter of Elnathan McIntire, who owned a farm situated about three-quarters of a mile from Charlton City. Early in Mr. Dexter's boyhood his father built a house near Elnathan McIntire's, where the Dexter family lived for four or five years, and then moved to Charlton City, near the David Dodge farm. There the Dexter family lived for several years and then the elder Mr. Dexter purchased a place near