

**ROXBURY CENTENNIAL: AN  
ACCOUNT OF THE  
CELEBRATION IN ROXBURY,  
NOVEMBER 22, 1876**

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Roxbury Centennial: An Account of the Celebration in Roxbury, November 22, 1876 by  
Various

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**VARIOUS**

**ROXBURY CENTENNIAL: AN  
ACCOUNT OF THE  
CELEBRATION IN ROXBURY,  
NOVEMBER 22, 1876**



*Compl. to  
Gen. Horace Binney Sargent*

Roxbury Centennial.

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AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

CELEBRATION IN ROXBURY,

NOVEMBER 22, 1876.

WITH THE

ORATION OF GEN. HORACE BINNEY SARGENT,  
SPEECHES AT THE DINNER  
AND OTHER MATTERS.

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BOSTON:

PRESS OF ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL,  
NO. 39 ARCH STREET.

1877.

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## INTRODUCTORY.

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Every native of that part of Boston within the limits of the old town of Roxbury cherishes with patriotic pride the historic traditions which cluster about its pleasant hills and valleys; and since the blotting of its name from the list of municipalities of the State, — consequent upon the annexation of this district to Boston, — very general regret has been expressed that no connected history of the town in the Revolution had been published. To Gen. John L. Swift is due the honor of recently calling public attention to this hiatus in the printed local records of the Revolution. A sentiment uttered by him in an oration at the dedication of Kennedy Hall, in 1874, proved to be the mainspring of a movement which culminated in the celebration hereinafter recorded. Alluding to the incompleteness of the written history of Roxbury, Gen. Swift suggested that the history of the town, in connection with the opening events of the Revolution, would justify the locality in selecting one day of the Centennial year for a commemorative celebration, and the delivery of an historical address.

The sentiment was loudly cheered at the time of its utterance, but no action was taken to carry out the idea. Indeed, it was forgotten by the general public, and the Centennial year had almost passed into history before it was recalled in a public manner; and then by a mere accident. On October 9th, 1876, a committee from the Roxbury City Guard met a committee from the Association of its past members — the Roxbury Artillery Association — to decide how the two organizations should observe their annual fall parade. It proved to be difficult to suggest a programme upon which all could agree, and there was some delay. At length Capt. Wm. H. Hutchinson, a private in the Guard, recalled the suggestion of Gen. Swift, and proposed that the old Norfolk Guards be invited

to join in the parade. He thought that the two corps, representing the oldest military organizations of Roxbury, could arrange a programme that would be acceptable to the citizens, and appropriately carry out the idea suggested by Gen. Swift. A week was taken to consult with past members of both the veteran companies, and the committee voted to invite the Norfolk Guards to co-operate, by the appointment of a committee, which was accepted. The committee of arrangements, as thus constituted, was composed as follows:—

FROM THE ROXBURY CITY GUARD.

Capt. B. Read Wales.	1st Lieut. Wm. H. Hawley.
2d Lieut. James R. Austin.	Lieut. S. Wm. Dewey (Co. Staff).
Sergt. Isaac P. Gragg (Past Com.).	Corp. Darius F. Eddy.
Private F. C. Brownell.	Private Wm. H. Hutchinson.
	Private Charles E. Osgood.

FROM THE ROXBURY ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

1st Lt. Com. J. P. Jordan (Past Com.).	Sr. 2d Lieut. Edwin R. Jenness.
Jr. 2d Lieut. James H. Nugent.	Gen. Isaac S. Burrell.
Capt. John A. Scott.	Capt. Henry A. Thomas.
Lieut. Wm. H. McIntosh.	Sergt. Wm. H. Emery.
	Sergt. Henry M. Jacobs.

FROM THE NORFOLK GUARDS.

Capt. James Guild (Past Com.).	Joseph W. Tucker.
John Dove.	J. Herman Curtis.
John F. Newton.	Geo. W. Pierce.
Jonas Fillebrown.	Geo. B. Davis.
	R. H. Wiswall.

Various sub-committees were appointed to arrange the several parts of the programme, and the date of the celebration was first fixed for November 15th. Hon. William Gaston, ex-Governor of the Commonwealth and a former Mayor of Roxbury, consented to deliver an historical oration, and the Standing Committee of the First Religious Society, Rev. George Putnam, D. D., pastor, voted



to allow the church to be used for that purpose. Mr. Samuel F. Williams, leader of the Winthrop-street Methodist Church choir, volunteered to furnish a choir, and Mr. T. M. Carter, leader of Carter's Band, became responsible for the organization of an old-fashioned bugle-band for the procession. Invitations were sent to the following-named organizations to participate in the procession: Encampment Thomas G. Stevenson Post 26, G. A. R.; Roxbury Horse Guards; Past Members of the Reserve Guard; Encampments and Lodges of the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Knights of Honor; and the Battalions of the Roxbury High and Latin Schools. General Isaac S. Burrell was chosen Chief Marshal of the Day, and he designated an efficient corps of Aids.

An unexpected delay in the arrangements was caused by a fatal accident to the father-in-law of Hon. William Gaston, who was compelled to decline to deliver the oration. General Horace Binney Sargent, of Salem, a former resident of Roxbury, reluctantly consented to prepare an oration during the brief time allowed, and mainly to accommodate him the celebration was fixed one week later, viz., Nov. 22. When the arrangements had thus far been completed, a sub-committee was authorized to publish in the two local papers — the "Home Journal" and the "Roxbury City Gazette" — and to mail two hundred postal-card copies of the following circular: —

1776.

1876.

**OLD ROXBURY**  
AND THE  
**CENTENNIAL YEAR!**

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**To the Citizens of the Town of Roxbury :**

It being deemed eminently appropriate that the **Centennial Year** should be observed in Roxbury, owing to the prominent part taken by its citizens in the events of **ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO**, the undersigned have been delegated a sub-committee to announce to our fellow-citizens, that a committee of the **Roxbury Artillery and City Guard**, together with the **Past Members of the Norfolk Guard**, have decided to inaugurate a

**ROXBURY CENTENNIAL DAY,**

TO BE OBSERVED ON

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22d,**

And to invite all persons interested to give the occasion their countenance and support.

As far as arranged, the programme for the day will include a **Military Procession, an Oration by GEN. HORACE HINNEY SARGENT**, at the Church edifice of the First Religious Society (Dr. Putnam's), and a

**NEW ENGLAND DINNER**

At some suitable Hall, to be hereafter announced.

**An Old-Time Bugle Band**

Will accompany the procession, and the **Winthrop Street (Methodist) Old Folks Choir** have volunteered to sing at the church.

Other organizations will be invited to appear in the procession, and it is hoped the occasion may be observed as a **HALF HOLIDAY**.

The Committee desire to dispose of a large number of **DINNER TICKETS**, and have that part of the programme partake of the nature of a

**GRAND RE-UNION**

OF

**OLD ROXBURY CITIZENS.**

Further details will be perfected as early as possible.

CAPT. B. READ WALES, } Roxbury City Guard.  
LIEUT. W. H. HAWLEY, }

CAPT. J. P. JORDAN, } Roxbury Artillery Association.  
GEN. I. B. BURRELL, }

JOS. W. TUCKER, } Norfolk Guard.  
JNO. P. NEWTON, }

For two days preceding the 22d day of November a severe rain-storm prevailed, and it was hoped that the third day would be pleasant. This did not prove to be the case. The morning of "Roxbury Day" was cloudy, foggy overhead and muddy underfoot, with occasional thick mists. By noon there was a favorable change, and, although the clouds obscured the sun, no rain fell during the out-door exercises. The programme was fully carried out as previously arranged.

The Roxbury City Guard and the Roxbury Artillery Association met at their armory in Webster Hall; the Norfolk Guards, the Grand Army Post and the Reserved Guard met at Dudley Hall; and the Knights of Pythias assembled at their hall at noon.

#### THE PROCESSION.

The procession was formed at half-past one o'clock, P. M., on Washington street, with the right resting near the site of the old fortifications at the corner of Williams street, in the following order:—

**PLATOON OF POLICE**, under Capt. Joseph Hastings, of Station 9.

**VETERANS OF THE OLD NIGHT WATCH OF ROXBURY.**—William D. Cook, Solomon Sanborn, Manly D. Butler, George R. Matthews, Morrill P. Berry, Samuel McIntosh, Canberry Litchfield, Silas Dole, J. M. Swett.

**MARSHALS.**—General Isaac S. Burrell, chief; Major George Curtis, Capt. John A. Scott, Capt. Isaac P. Gragg, and L. Foster Morse, Esqs., Aids.

**CARTER'S CENTENNIAL BAND.**—T. M. Carter, leader; composed of a portion of the regular Carter's Band, with Joseph Green, of Providence, E. H. Weston, Alonzo Bond, George Kinsley, and John Ballard, veteran musicians.

**ROXBURY CITY GUARD.**—Capt. B. Read Wales, with honorary staff, consisting of Lieut.-Col. Nathaniel Wales, Major William A. Smith, Adj't H. B. Parker, Quartermaster Wm. H. Jones, of the staff of the First Battalion of Infantry, M. V. M.; the company staff consisting of Past Commander Charles G. Davis, Lieuts. F. J. Ward, G. B. Rohan and A. W. Hersey, and Dr. G. T. Perkins;—fifty rifles in line. The company wore the gray regimental uniform, bearskin hats, and white cross-belts. The color-guard wore the Artillery Company uniform of gray, trimmed with scarlet, and gray shako.