

**MEMORIAL OF
PROFESSOR
AARON WARNER**

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Memorial of Professor Aaron Warner by E. P. C.

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AMHERST:
1884.

NOTE.

This memorial is printed (not published) for the benefit of the children, grandchildren, and other relatives of Professor Warner. If it should chance to fall under the eye of any one else, the purpose for which it is written may be a sufficient apology for whatever might otherwise incur criticism.

In preparing this sketch, there have been two objects in view—the permanent preservation of the facts of Professor Warner's life, and the exhibition of his character, partly through the record itself, and partly through what is said of him by different persons, who were his intimate acquaintances in various relations and at successive periods of his life.

He was the last man in the world to anticipate any such memorial; and so it has required much labor to look through his papers, put away once for all, when he had no further use for them, and to search out what might be serviceable, as well as to collect by correspondence many facts not otherwise definitely known, or of which only vague impressions remained in the minds of any of the household.

Many other incidents might, without doubt, have been learned from him in conversation, had the thought ever suggested itself, while he was living, of paying any such tribute to his memory.

In addition to private sources of information, credit should be given for many things herein mentioned, to

The Genealogy of the Warner Family, by Hon. Oliver Warner.

Hallock's Life of Justin Edwards.

Fell's History of Ipswich.

Judd's History of Hadley.

Clark's Historicals of Northampton.

History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts.

President Dwight's Travels in New England.

Durfee's History of Williams College.

History of Presbyterianism in South Carolina, by Rev. George Howe, D. D.

Brooks' History of Medford.

Lancaster's History of Gilmanton, N. H.

E. P. C.

Amherst, February, 1884.

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MEMORIAL.

I.

ANCESTRY.

On a tombstone at St. Mary Quay, Ipswich, England, is the following epitaph:

JOHN WARNER, Ipswich, ob. 1641, æt. 92.

I Warner was unto myself
Now warning am to thee
Both living dying dead I warn
See then thou warned be.

1. The precise relationship of this man to the New England Warners is not known. But among the large number of those who for the sake of civil and religious freedom came to this country in the great period of emigration, between the years 1620 and 1640, were WILLIAM WARNER of Ipswich, England, and his family including three children, who with his pastor settled in 1637 in Ipswich—one of the foremost towns in the colony in the intelligence and worth of character and thrift of its earlier inhabitants, as it was one of the oldest in settlement.

A few years after its founding in 1633, the historian Johnson recorded the fact that "the peopling of this town is by men of good rank and quality, many of them having the yearly revenue of large lands in England before they came to this wilderness." And in 1638 Cotton Mather wrote concerning it: "Here was a renowned church consisting mostly of such illuminated Christians, that their pastors, in the exercise of their ministry might think that they had to do: not so much with disciples as judges." Of this church William Warner was a member. He died before the year 1648.

2. His son JOHN, born about 1616, and married March 10, 1645 to Priscilla, daughter of Mark Symonds, a "freeman" of Ipswich, remained a citizen of that town for about twenty years longer, (during which time most if not all of his nine children were born) favored with the religious instructions of Rev. Messrs John Norton and Nathaniel Rogers, graduates of one of the English Universities and ministers eminent for ability, learning and piety. The eldest of his children must also have had the privileges of the "Ipswich Grammar School," as that was established before 1651.

When the territory of Brookfield was granted to a number of citizens of Ipswich in May, 1660, he was one of the three trustees in whom the deed of the town was vested, and about the year 1665, removed to that place—then an isolated settlement between the sea-coast and the towns in the Connecticut valley. In king Philip's war, this village was attacked by the Indians early in August, 1675, and though bravely defended and its garrison finally relieved, almost all the buildings were destroyed and it was for a time deserted by the inhabitants. John Warner removed to Hadley, where he died at an advanced age, about 1692, leaving by will among his other effects to his heirs "two bibles, two catechisms and six sermon-books."

3. One of John's sons, MARK, (born in Ipswich) preceded him to Hadley, about 1670, and married Abigail daughter of Richard Montague of that town, Dec. 8, 1671. The minister of Hadley Rev. John Russell, Jr., born in England, was a graduate of Harvard College in 1645, and had accompanied the first settlers of the place from Hartford in 1659. "He was an active and faithful pastor and a man of great courage, firmness and decision of character," which qualities were especially illustrated in his concealing in his house the regicides Whalley and Goffe from 1664 until they died, (the one in 1676, the other in 1680). Mr. Russell died in 1692. Both John and Mark Warner were his parishioners and sat under his preaching. And they undoubtedly witnessed the memorable scene, when the people, assembled for worship on a Fast-day, Sept. 1, 1675, were thrown into the utmost terror and confusion by tidings of an Indian attack on the outskirts of the village, and "a venerable elderly person of different mien and dress suddenly appeared in the midst of them, encouraged, rallied and led them on against the enemy with complete success and then as suddenly disappeared."

During this war, we are told, Hadley "was by no means a dull place. The houses were often filled to overflowing; companies of soldiers were arriving and departing, armed men appeared daily in

the broad street and the red flag waved in the breeze." Except in the winter mail-messengers traveled between Hadley and Boston and were not harmed. Among these, mention is made in the records of Nathaniel Warner, a son of John who was a "post" to Boston many times in 1675 and 1676,—when about 20 years of age. The educational privileges in Hadley in those days were very good as the Hopkins Grammar School was founded as early as 1667, and from the first was taught by college graduates and furnished instruction in all the studies preparatory to College.

About 1687 Mark Warner removed to Northampton and bought a homestead which included the lot at the corner of Bridge and Hawley streets. His wife died in 1705. In 1713 he married Mrs. Mary Root, lived at Westfield until 1732 and then returned to Northampton, where he died May 3, 1738, at the age of about ninety years.

4. His son MARK WARNER 2ND, who was born in Hadley, Feb. 20, 1678, was thus reared from the age of nine, in Northampton, where also a Grammar School had been already established (about 1671) and where the minister was the Rev. Solomon Stoddard, a graduate of Harvard College, "a man of great learning and piety, a plain, experimental and argumentative preacher, who not only enjoyed the respect, confidence and love of his people and was venerated by them as a father, but who possessed more influence than any other clergyman in the Province during a period of thirty years," and whose pastorate of fifty-seven years terminated with his death in 1729, when he was at the age of eighty-six.

Mark Warner, 2nd, married Lydis, daughter of Nathaniel Phelps in 1701 and lived on his farm at "Blackpole," the Northern part of what is now Prospect street, until his death August 3, 1766 at the age of eighty-nine. Mrs. Warner died Nov. 19, 1765, aged eighty-two.

5. Their children were eleven in number. One of these was DANIEL who was born in 1717 and whose childhood (from the age of ten) and youth were passed under the ministry of the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, America's greatest theologian. Of the preaching of that distinguished divine and of the effects of it, manifested in part in "the great awakening" of 1733-35, Mr. Warner could give accounts to his grandchildren—among them the subject of this sketch.

He could also describe to them the appearance and condition of the town in that early time, the village consisting almost wholly of block houses, the abundance of game of all kinds, including deer, in the surrounding woods, and the choice varieties of fish in the rivers,

the arrival of freight from Boston by way of the Connecticut river—the regular route up to the time of the Revolution at least—the introduction of tea and coffee about the middle of the century, the first book store in town opened in 1769, where were on sale Testaments, catechisms and other religious books, biographies, dictionaries, Latin school books, some medical and law books.

Of the almost constant fear of the Indians in which the inhabitants had lived from the memorable attack upon the town in 1676, and of the occasional encounters with the savages, which occurred in the immediate vicinity even down to the conquest of Canada, and of one of which at least he had had personal experience, he could also give these grandchildren vivid impressions.

This constant exposure to danger, indeed, was the reason for his continuing to live at or near his father's, after his marriage to Jemima, daughter of Samuel Wright in 1746, until the end of the French and Indian war. Then in 1759, he removed to what was called "Bear hill," afterwards the "Warner district," and built his house on a site about ten rods west of the one now owned and occupied by Mr. John F. Warner. At that time there were only two others between "Blackpole" and what is now Haydenville. There were born and reared his seven children. In 1790 this house was destroyed by fire, and in the one which took its place Mr. Warner spent his declining years. Dying at the age of eighty-seven, Dec. 11, 1804, the words inscribed on his tombstone in the Northampton cemetery are still to be read there:

Eternity unfolds what time can't give

'Tis only when we live to die we die to live.

6. The third child and oldest son of Daniel Warner was JOSEPH. He was born Dec. 25, 1751, grew up under the preaching of the Rev. John Hooker, the fourth minister of Northampton, "whose sound discretion and instructive discourses secured the love and respect of his people, who is represented as a man of most winning manners and as particularly endearing himself to the youth of the Congregation," and became a member of his church in 1791.

March 25, 1779, he married Jerusha Edwards, born Feb. 28, 1759, of a family whose successive generations were well matched with this line of the Warners in length of days, religious and educational privileges and character.

1. In 1640, ALEXANDER EDWARDS, a parishioner of a noted Puritan preacher, named Wroth, emigrated to this country from a border town in Wales and settled in Springfield. There he married