

**INAUGURAL EXERCISES IN
WAKEFIELD, MASS., INCLUDING
THE HISTORICAL ADDRESS AND
POEM DELIVERED ON
SATURDAY, JULY 4TH, 1868**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649345328

Inaugural Exercises in Wakefield, Mass., Including the Historical Address and Poem Delivered on Saturday, July 4th, 1868 by Various

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VARIOUS

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INAUGURAL EXERCISES

IN

WAKEFIELD, MASS.,

INCLUDING

The Historical Address and Poem

DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF

THE ASSUMPTION OF ITS NEW NAME,

BY

THE TOWN FORMERLY KNOWN AS SOUTH READING,

ON

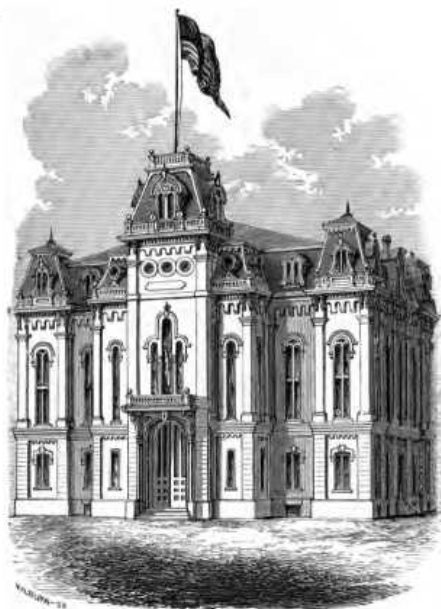
SATURDAY, JULY 4th, 1868.



BOSTON:

PRINTED BY WARREN RICHARDSON, 11 MILK STREET.

1868.



WAKEFIELD HALL.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

Inauguration of the Town of Wakefield,

JULY 4TH, 1868.

RESPECTFULLY PRESENTED TO THE CITIZENS
BY THEIR FELLOW-TOWNSMEN,

LILLEY EATON,
JOHN S. EATON,
THOMAS WINSHIP,
S. O. RICHARDSON.

INTRODUCTORY.

At the request of many citizens, the following pages have been prepared for publication by members of the Committee of Arrangements, who have more readily complied with the request in consideration of the fact, that the intense heat prevailing on the day of the celebration, permitted the attendance of comparatively few of those desirous of listening to the literary exercises of that occasion.

The same cause which prevented the attendance of many persons, had an influence, also, in disturbing certain details of arrangement, and will furnish excuse, perhaps, for the *incompleteness* of some portions of this record.

It may be here remarked, that propositions to change the name of the town had been under discussion, at various times, — many and important arguments being adduced in favor of a change, which discussion finally resulted in the selection of a Town Committee, with instructions, after due consideration of the subject, to report to the town for its action thereon.

The report of this Committee, and also that of another Town Committee, selected to consider the expediency of erecting a Soldiers' Monument, or a Memorial Hall, in said town, are herewith presented, presuming they will furnish ample explanation of the reasons which influenced the town in its decision.

With these explanatory lines, this condensed record of action and events, is respectfully submitted.

PRELIMINARY ACTION OF THE TOWN.

At a meeting of the qualified voters of the town of South Reading, in due form convened on the twentieth day of January, 1868, the following report was submitted:

REPORT.

To the Town of South Reading:

The Committee who were appointed to consider the matter of erecting a Soldiers' Monument or Memorial Hall, herewith submit a final report, as follows:

It will be remembered that the Committee have already, at a former meeting of the town, submitted a partial report, and obtained leave longer to consider the subject; that in said *partial* report the Committee represented that a majority of their number was in favor of a Memorial Hall, — first, as being cheaper, if, in the erection of a new Town House provision should be made for such a hall therein; and, second, as being more useful, sentimental and historic, than a simple granite or marble monument; that said Committee also represented that intimations had been given, that liberal donations toward the expense of erecting a new Town House, sufficiently spacious to furnish in addition to other conveniences, a room for a Memorial Hall might be expected; and further, that your Committee asked of the town more time to consider the matter, in order that such intimations might take shape and become definite realities.

The Committee have the pleasure to report that the expectations based upon the intimations aforesaid have been abundantly realized. The Committee are now in the possession of the assurance, ample and satisfactory; First, that a lot of land and a cash

contribution of \$30,000 to \$35,000 (as may be needed) for a new Town House, (and such further sum of money as may be necessary in order to build a house satisfactory to the town,) the same being the gift of CYRUS WAKEFIELD, Esq.; and, secondly, that \$1,000 for furnishing and adorning the rooms, in said proposed Town House, the gift of SOLON O. RICHARDSON, Esq., now await the town's acceptance.

Your Committee would therefore recommend the acceptance by the town of the aforesaid offers, and that in accepting them, the town tender their hearty thanks and lively congratulations to Cyrus Wakefield, Esq., for his princely proposal, and to Solon O. Richardson, Esq., for his munificent offer, and proffer to both these gentlemen the assurance that the town most highly appreciate these splendid gifts, and will hold the donors of them in honorable and perpetual remembrance.

The Committee would also unanimously recommend the passage of the following votes:

First, That instead of building a granite or marble monument to the memory of those gallant soldiers from South Reading who gave their lives for their country, whenever a new Town House shall be built, provision shall be made for a suitable room therein that shall be set apart for a "Soldiers' Memorial Hall," and which shall be furnished and adorned, and supplied with portraits, relics, and other memorials of the lives and services of the living, and especially of the departed brave.

Second, That a Building Committee of seven persons be now appointed, (to serve gratuitously,) who shall have authority to erect in behalf of the town, during the present year, upon such part of the "Nash Smith House Lot," on Main Street, in South Reading, as said Committee shall agree upon, a New Town House of sufficient capacity to furnish a suitable Hall for Town Meetings and Public Lectures, a Soldiers' Memorial Hall, rooms for the Town Library, Town Officers' rooms, and rooms for Military and other Municipal purposes, to cost in addition to the land for a site, not less than \$30,000; the size, plan, materials, and all the details and surroundings to be left to the discretion of said Committee, provided that a deed conveying to said town a site of suit-

able size, and located on said "Smith Lot" shall be secured; and provided also, that a sum not less than \$30,000 shall be gratuitously furnished.

Third, That the Building Committee aforesaid shall be also authorized to appropriate and expend, at their discretion, in furnishing and adorning the rooms in said Town House, such sums of money as are or shall be given for such specific purpose.

All which is respectfully submitted by order, and in behalf of, the Committee.

LILLEY EATON, *Chairman*.

SOUTH READING, January 20, 1868.

At the same meeting, Daniel Allen, from Committee on change of Town's Name, submitted the following

REPORT :

The Committee, chosen by the town to take into consideration the subject of changing the name of the town, and also to designate a new name for adoption, would respectfully report :

In consequence of the action of the town, at their meeting in November last, upon this subject, — then voting, unanimously, to *change* the name, — the Committee do not deem it necessary to go into any argument, or to present facts upon that subject; still, we are happy to state that in all our investigations, and in all our consultations with our fellow citizens, and in all that has come to the knowledge of the Committee, *all* are in confirmation of the action of the town upon the subject.

One of the most prominent objections to our present position is, that, outside of our immediate vicinity, we have no personal identity as an independent and separate town, which leads to constant inconvenience.

The First, or South Parish, of Reading, was incorporated as the Town of South Reading, in 1812, containing then a population of eight hundred, and a valuation of \$100,000.

From 1850 to 1855, the town of Old Reading lost in population $17\frac{13}{100}$ per cent., while, in the same period, South Reading gained $27\frac{88}{100}$ per cent.