

**ONE HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WORCESTER FIRE
SOCIETY: ADDRESS**

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One Hundredth Anniversary of the Worcester Fire Society: Address by George F. Hoar & John D. Washburn

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GEORGE F. HOAR & JOHN D. WASHBURN

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ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

WORCESTER FIRE SOCIETY.

ADDRESS BY GEORGE F. HOAR.

POEM BY JOHN D. WASHBURN.

Hand to the



Worcester, Mass.

PRESS OF CHARLES HAMILTON,
311 MAIN STREET.

1893.

THE ANNIVERSARY.

At the Quarterly Meeting of the WORCESTER FIRE SOCIETY, held at the house of the Worcester Club on Jan. 4, 1892, on motion of Joseph Mason, the senior member, it was

Voted, That the Moderator appoint before the next meeting, a committee of five, to make arrangements for our Centennial Celebration, and also to appoint an Orator and Poet for that occasion; the committee to have full powers.

The Moderator of that evening,—the Hon. John D. Washburn,—subsequently appointed the following named gentlemen as the Committee:—Charles A. Chase, Waldo Lincoln, A. George Bullock, Lincoln N. Kinnicutt and Samuel B. Woodward.

At the Quarterly Meeting in July, the Committee reported that they had appointed as Orator, the Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR, U. S. Senator from Massachusetts, and as Poet, the Hon. JOHN D. WASHBURN, U. S. Minister to Switzerland,—both gentlemen being members of the Society. The Committee continued their labors, and at the October meeting reported a plan for the celebration, which was unanimously adopted. It provided that the quarterly meeting in January should be held as usual, that all routine business should be disposed of at that time, and that the meeting should adjourn to the 21st of the month at such place as the Committee should select; that all ex-members should be given an opportunity to attend; that each gentleman should have the privilege of bringing one lady; and that Article XX. of the By-Laws should be suspended for the evening.

On Saturday evening, Jan. 21, 1893, the Society assembled at the beautiful Colonial Hall, No. 34 Front street. Twenty-one ladies were present on this, the first assembly of the Society at which the other sex had been represented. A table, six feet wide and forty-four feet in length, was set for the occasion with silver candelabra and baskets of flowers, and the cloth strewn with small flowers and green sprays from Mr. Salisbury's green-houses. The daughters of Samuel M. Burnside, a member from

1817 until his death in 1850,—sent their father's two fire-buckets filled with rare flowers, a quaint and elegant ornament.

The Hon. STEPHEN SALISBURY,—son of Stephen Salisbury who was for sixty years a member of the Society, and grandson of Stephen Salisbury who was an original member,—served as Moderator for the evening.

The company were seated at the table in the following order:—

Mrs. JOSEPH MASON,	* STEPHEN SALISBURY,
* GEORGE F. HOAR,	MISS AMY L. STODDARD,
Mrs. JOHN D. WASHBURN,	* JOHN D. WASHBURN,
JOSEPH MASON,	* Rev. EDWARD H. HALL,
Mrs. W. W. RICE,	Mrs. A. GEORGE BULLOCK,
EDWARD L. DAVIS,	ELIJAH B. STODDARD,
MISS FRANCES LINCOLN,	Mrs. JOSIAH H. CLARKE,
* Dr. JOHN G. PARK,	NATHANIEL PAINE,
Dr. THOMAS H. GAGE,	Mrs. THOMAS H. GAGE,
Mrs. H. M. QUINBY,	JOSIAH H. CLARKE,
WILLIAM W. RICE,	Mrs. JOSEPH E. DAVIS.
Mrs. WALDO LINCOLN,	WM. S. B. HOPKINS,
G. STANLEY HALL,	JOHN M. BARKER,
JAMES P. HAMILTON,	Mrs. CHARLES G. WASHBURN,
Mrs. W. S. B. HOPKINS,	EDWIN BROWN,
* CHARLES H. DOR,	MISS MARY HOAR,
JOSEPH E. DAVIS,	FRANCIS H. DEWEY,
Mrs. JAMES P. HAMILTON,	Mrs. W. W. CHAMBERLIN,
Dr. HOSEA M. QUINBY,	* CHARLES G. WASHBURN,
* A. GEORGE BULLOCK,	Mrs. SAMUEL B. WOODWARD,
Mrs. HALLECK BARTLETT,	* WALDO LINCOLN,
LINCOLN N. KINNICUTT,	Mrs. EDWIN BROWN,
MISS ALICE CHASE,	* CHARLES A. CHASE,
* Dr. SAMUEL B. WOODWARD,	MISS MARY T. RICH.

Frank P. Goulding and * Dr. Leonard Wheeler came in to attend the literary exercises at the close of the feast. The absentees were John A. Dana, * Joseph Sargent, Elias H. Russell, and Leonard P. Kinnicutt. Dr. Thomas H. Gage, the Rev. Edward H. Hall, and Dr. John G. Park represented the past members. During the evening a toast was drunk to the health of Dr. George Chandler, a past member, the oldest on the rolls, and another to the Miss Burnside's in recognition of the compliment received from them.

The supper was furnished by Steward Johnson of the Worcester Club. The *Menu* cards bore the clever device invented a few

** Alumni of Harvard Coll.*

years previously by Mr. John M. Barker;—showing two fire-buckets, the bags, bed-key and screw-driver; the card at each man's plate giving his name in the proper place upon the bucket, and the year in which he joined the Society. The ladies' cards gave their names and the date, 1893. The bill of fare was as follows:—

1793. CENTENNIAL DINNER, 1893.
 WORCESTER FIRE SOCIETY,
 Colonial Hall, January 21, 1893.

MENU.

Blue Point Oysters.
 Mock Turtle Soup, à la Delmonico.
 Crème de Hallbut, à la Suprême.
 Leg of Kentucky Mutton—Caper Sauce.
 Vol au Vent of Capon, with Mushrooms.
 Frozen Roman Punch.
 Filets of Partridge, with Dressed Celery.
 Frozen Pudding. Water Ices. Grape Jelly.
 Coffee. Crackers and Cheese. Candies.
 Fruit.
 Nuts. Raisins.

During the evening some sherry was served, said to be over a hundred years old, contributed for the occasion by Moses B. I. Goddard, Esq., of Providence, through Joseph E. Davis. A toast was given to Mr. Goddard, and Senator Hoar expressed the wish that the donor might live as long as his sherry.

Near the close of the feast, Mr. Chase, for himself and his associates, presented to the Society a Loving Cup of solid silver, in shape like a fire-bucket and suitably engraved. He drank the health of the Moderator, who in turn drank the health of the lady upon his right, and so the cup made the complete circuit of the table. The presentation was preceded by the reading of the following letter:—

The undersigned, members of the Worcester Fire Society, take the opportunity offered by its one hundredth anniversary to offer for its acceptance a LOVING CUP.

We believe that its possession and use will help to keep alive and perpetuate the feeling of mutual respect, esteem and good fellowship which has prevailed among us during the past one hundred years; and

It is for this reason and because we are individually imbued with this feeling that we tender this gift.

For our membership we would offer the prayer which constitutes the motto of the chief city of this Commonwealth:—*Sicut patribus sit Deus nobis!* and for the Society, *Semper perpetua!*

With respect and love,

CHARLES A. CHASE, A. GEORGE BULLOCK,
WALDO LINCOLN, LINCOLN N. KINNICUTT,
SAMUEL B. WOODWARD.

The following letters were read by the Clerk:—

FROM CHARLES W. HARTSHORN.

TAUNTON, JAN. 13, 1893.

DEAR SIR:

I much regret that the state of my health will not permit me to be present at the meeting of the Worcester Fire Society, to which you kindly invite me, and enclose the formal answer on card as requested.

Wishing a most pleasant reunion to all the members, both those that remain of my old contemporaries and those that have succeeded the others since my day,

I remain, yours respectfully,

CHAS. W. HARTSHORN.

Samuel B. Woodward, *Clerk.*

THE CITY'S CONGRATULATIONS.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,

WORCESTER, MASS., JAN. 21, 1893.

DR. SAMUEL B. WOODWARD, *Clerk of the Worcester Fire Society.*

DEAR SIR:

The one hundredth anniversary of the founding of your Society is an event of such significance and rare occurrence that an interest in its observance is felt beyond the limited membership of your ancient guild.

The high representative character and great attainments of many of those who have been identified with your Society during the long period of its existence may well excite your deep interest and pride in the organization.

Worcester has been glad to honor many of your members with the highest offices in her gift, and they, in turn, have honored her by conspicuous public service at home and abroad. Their names she will always cherish. It is therefore fitting that I extend to your Society, on the occasion of this celebration, the congratulations and best wishes of the citizens, with the sincere hope that your future record may be as honorable as that of the past.

I am with great respect yours most truly,

HENRY A. MARSH, *Mayor.*

The literary exercises of the occasion were opened by the Moderator, who spoke as follows:—

REMARKS BY THE MODERATOR.

Members of the Worcester Fire Society, Past Members of the Society, and Ladies, our Invited Guests.

One hundred years ago, on January 21st, 1793, at 6 o'clock in the evening the Worcester Fire Society was founded. The "Articles of Agreement" adopted by the members there assembled have remained with slight amendments as the Rules and Regulations of the Society until the present time. The names of the twenty-two associate members of the Society were as follows:—

- Joseph Allen, born in Boston, Sept. 24, 1749, died in Worcester, Sept. 1, 1827.
- John Nazro, born in Boston, 1743, died in the State of New York, 1806.
- Leonard Worcester, born in Hollis, N. H., 1767, died in St. Johnsbury, Vt., May 28, 1846.
- Nathaniel Falne, born in Worcester, Jan. 5, 1759, died in Worcester, Oct. 7, 1840.
- Samuel Chandler, born in Worcester, Feb. 25, 1757, died in Woodstock, Conn., Oct. 26, 1813.
- Ezra Waldo Weld, born in Braintree, died in N. Y., 1818.
- John Green, born in Worcester, March 18, 1763, died in Worcester, Aug. 11, 1808.
- Samuel Brazier, born in Charlestown, 1755, died in Worcester, Aug. 10, 1835.
- Thomas Payson, born in Boston, 1764, died in Peterboro, N. H., April 20, 1844.
- Edward Bangs, born in Harwich, Sept. 5, 1756, died in Worcester, June 28, 1818.
- Elijah Dix, born in Watertown, Aug. 13, 1747, died in Dixmont, Me., May 28, 1809.
- William Sever, born in Kingston, June 23, 1759, died in Worcester, Oct. 27, 1798.
- Theophilus Wheeler, born in Harvard, 1764, died in Worcester, Aug. 14, 1840.
- Oliver Fiske, born in Brookfield, Sept. 2, 1762, died in Boston, Jan. 25, 1837.

John Paine, born in Worcester, July 25, 1762, died in Worcester, Dec. 23, 1832.
 Samuel Allen, born in Boston, 1757, died in Worcester, Dec. 26, 1880.
 Stephen Salisbury, born in Boston, Sept. 25, 1746, died in Worcester, May 11, 1829.
 Charles Chandler, born in Worcester, Jan. 22, 1755, died in Worcester, April 9, 1798.
 John Stanton, born in Boston, June 7, 1755, died in Worcester, Nov. 9, 1796.
 Abraham Lincoln, born in Hingham, 1762, died in Boston, July 2, 1824.
 Daniel Waldo, Jr., born in Boston, June 12, 1763, died in Worcester, July 9, 1845.
 Isalah Thomas, born in Boston, Jan. 19, 1749, died in Worcester, April 4, 1831.

The number of members, originally fixed at thirty, has not been changed. The preamble engrossed upon the records still stands, and reads as follows:—

“ We, the subscribers, influenced by a sense of social duty, do, for the more effectual assistance of each other and of our townsmen in times of danger from fire, form ourselves into a society, by the name of the Worcester Fire Society, and for the government thereof, promise a strict observance of the following Articles, viz: ”

Then follow fifteen articles of agreement substantially preserved in succeeding years, and only increased to twenty in the long passage of a century, during which, without interruption, quarterly meetings have been observed.

The apparatus, “ kept together in the dwelling house to be taken for use in case of fire and also for inspection by the Clerk at all times, two Leather Buckets, each containing at least eight quarts; two Bags, each one yard and one-half long and one yard and one-half round, with strings at the mouths so that they may be drawn up with the greatest despatch; an iron Bed Key, with a screw driver at one end, and a common screw driver, the Buckets and Bags marked and numbered, with the first letter of the owner's Christian name and his surname at length,” still remain as at first, the insignia of service of the present Associ-