

**CELEBRATION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA HELD AT
BRADFORD, MASS., JULY 4TH, 1876**

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Celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United states of america held at Bradford, Mass., July 4th, 1876 by Various

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VARIOUS

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ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA HELD AT
BRADFORD, MASS., JULY 4TH, 1876**

From the
Town Club

Centennial Celebration,



JULY 4TH, 1876.



**BRADFORD,
MASSACHUSETTS.**

CELEBRATION
OF THE
One Hundredth Anniversary
OF THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

HELD AT

BRADFORD, MASS.,

JULY 4TH, 1876.

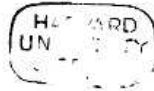
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1877.

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1878. Jan. 21,
y^l of
the Town Clerk.



At a legal town-meeting held June 13th, 1876, the following votes were passed:

Art. 2d. Voted—to appropriate the sum of Three hundred (\$300) dollars for the purpose of celebrating the coming Centennial fourth of July.

Voted—that the following named be a committee to carry out the above vote with power to fill vacancies and appoint sub-committees:

D. FREEMAN TOWNE.	WM. A. KIMBALL.
DR. WM. COGSWELL.	CHAS. B. EMERSON.
JAMES K. HALL.	WM. HILTON.
GEORGE W. LADD.	GARDNER G. KIMBALL.
WM. L. GAGE.	

ORGANIZATION OF THE
COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

GEORGE W. LADD, Chairman.
WILLIAM COGSWELL, General Director.
WILLIAM HILTON, Secretary.
WILLIAM L. GAGE, Treasurer.
SAMUEL W. HOPKINSON, }
D. FREEMAN TOWNE, } Selectmen.
WM. ALLISON KIMBALL. }
CHARLES B. EMERSON.
JAMES K. HALL.
GARDNER G. KIMBALL.

SUB COMMITTEES.

Committee to select Grounds for the Celebration.

GEO. W. LADD. D. F. TOWNE.
WM. L. GAGE.

Committee to procure a Band.

D F. TOWNE. GARDNER G. KIMBALL.
JAMES K. HALL.

Committee on Singing.

WM. COGSWELL. CHAS. B. EMERSON.

Committee on Salute.

JAMES K. HALL. SAMUEL W. HOPKINSON.

Committee to furnish Stand, Tables and Decorations.

WILLIAM HILTON.

Committee to procure Provisions and superintend Tables.

CHARLES B. EMERSON. JAMES K. HALL.
WM. ALLISON KIMBALL.

Committee to procure Lemonade.

WILLIAM L. GAGE.

Assistant Committee.

SAM'L K. HOLMES. DOANE COGSWELL.
BENJ. F. LEAVITT. NICHOLAS SAWYER.
FRANK JOHNSON. ALDEN B. CHADWICK.
EDWIN G. ELLIOTT.

OFFICERS OF THE DAY.

Committee to arrange Tables and Decorations.

MRS. LABURTON JOHNSON.
 " HARRISON E. CHADWICK.
 " WILLIAM W. PHILLIPS.
 " P. E. PEARL.
 " GEORGE W. LADD.
 " HARRISON WILLIAMS.
 " A. LABURTON KIMBALL.
 " SAMUEL B. PERRY.
 " WILLIAM COGSWELL.
 " ELIZA GOODWIN.
 " JOHN B. FARRAR.
 MISS LIZZIE PEABODY.
 " JULIA A. GOODELL.
 " MARY E. WEBSTER.
 " HATTIE N. HILLS.

The Committee appointed as Officers of the Day :

Chief Marshal.

MAJOR EUGENE CAITER.

Assistant Marshals.

BENJ. G. PERRY. CHAS. T. RICHARDS.
 CHARLES G. JOHNSON. FRANK E. MORSE.

President.

HON. GEORGE COGSWELL.

Chaplain.

REV. J. C. PAINE, of Groveland.

Reader of the Declaration of Independence.

DR. WILLIAM COGSWELL.

Orator.

HARRISON E. CHADWICK, ESQ.

Toast Master.

SAMUEL W. HOPKINSON, ESQ.

Musical Director.

PROF. H. E. HOLT.

PROCEEDINGS.

At sunrise the church bell was rung, and a salute of thirteen guns for the thirteen original States was fired. At noon the church bell was again rung, and the people assembled at the Common in front of the meeting-house, according to previous notice. A procession was then formed by Major Eugene Carter, the Chief Marshal of the day, in the following order:—First, the Groveland Brass Band, followed by the carriage bearing the President of the day, the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, the Chaplain and the Orator; then the Town Officers, the elderly people and invited guests in carriages; then followed the children of the public schools on foot, many of them carrying flags; and as many others of the citizens as chose to join the procession.

At about one o'clock the procession moved up Main Street into School Street about one-half a mile to the grove on the grounds of Bradford Academy, in the rear of the building, where the whole assembly, numbering about fifteen hundred, arranged themselves around the stand provided for the occasion.

At half-past one o'clock the exercises commenced. George W. Ladd, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, addressed the assembly as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

You all well know that we have met here to celebrate this glorious Fourth of July. Every community ought, and every individual should participate in some way. It is a duty we owe to our country, and a duty we can do with pleasure.

There is something grand in being here on this Centennial Year of our National Independence, to do all we can that is patriotic and profitable, for in doing so we can all pledge ourselves anew to cherish the memory of those noble men and women who sacrificed so

much to gain our Independence, and to those that did so much to restore it.

I will not detain you with any extended remarks, but will say that the Committee of Arrangements have selected one of our honored and esteemed citizens to take charge of the exercises—one whom you all know; one who has been in our midst for nearly fifty years; one who has seen this town grow from a little village to its present proportions; and one that has always had the interest of Bradford and his country nearest his heart. I now have the pleasure of introducing to you as President of the Day, Hon. George Cogswell.

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT.

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN AND FELLOW-TOWNSMEN:

A century since our fathers uttered these words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Upon the Declaration of Independence the thirteen American Colonies continued the war then existing with the mother country, not merely to escape from British oppression but to establish a nation. Our ancestors brought with them from England the great principle that all men have the right to worship God in accordance with the dictates of conscience, and, also, to found a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." These grand truths uttered by John Calvin had been quietly possessing the hearts of men, until they found full expression in the founding of the American Republic. The population of this country was then between three and four millions, engaged in a desperate war with the savages on the west, on the east with the mightiest nation in Europe assisted by mercenary German troops. Now we have a nation of forty millions and not a slave presses our soil, extending from the frozen regions of the north to the warm waters of the Gulf; at peace with ourselves and with all the nations of the earth, while our flag floats proudly over every sea as an emblem of power and of self-government.

We meet to-day to recount our blessings and to give thanks to Almighty God that he did put it into the hearts of our fathers to cross the Atlantic and take possession of a continent and found this great nation on a model far in advance of any other nation in securing equal rights to all.

Fellow-townsmen, our lot is cast in this beautiful town of Bradford, on the south bank of the Merrimack, overlooking the city of Haverhill with its unsurpassed beauty, in the midst of an industrious, thriving and substantial population, with moral, educational