

**THE BARNSTEAD
REUNION, CELEBRATED
AT BARNSTEAD, N.
H., AUGUST 30, 1882**

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The Barnstead Reunion, Celebrated at Barnstead, N. H., August 30, 1882 by Horace N. Colbath

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HORACE N. COLBATH

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AUGUST 30, 1882.

EDITED BY

HORACE N. COLBATH.

CONCORD, N. H.:

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Laurence S. Mayo

At a meeting of the Barnstead Reunion Association, it was—*Voted,*

That the thanks of this Association be presented to the President, Charles Smith George, Esq., for his admirable address of welcome; to Alonzo Hall Quint, D. D., for his interesting and eloquent oration; to Laura Garland Carr, and Hanson Caverno Canney, M. D., for pertinent and beautiful poems; to Mrs. Darius Friuk, for an appropriate hymn; and to Hon. J. G. Sinclair, Hon. H. A. Tuttle, Col. E. S. Nutter, Hon. O. M. Murphy, Rev. Frank H. Lyford, Hon. J. P. Jewell, John D. Nutter, Esq., and Howard A. Dodge, Esq., for addresses and responses to sentiments, and that they be requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication.

That our thanks are due John B. Garland, Esq., Hon. Henry H. Huee, Rev. S. D. Jewett, Col. James S. Hoitt, Col. Thomas E. Barker, J. C. Scriggins, Esq., and William G. Drew, for congratulatory letters.

Voted, That Horace Nutter Colbath be chosen to edit and publish the history of the Barnstead Reunion, held August 30, 1882, including addresses, oration, poems, sentiments, and letters, and such other matter as he may deem proper.

Attest:

JOHN H. JENKINS,

Recording Secretary.

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INTRODUCTION.

BARNSTEAD, New Hampshire, situated in the southwestern part of Belknap county, northeast from Concord twenty miles, and bordering on the counties of Merrimack and Strafford, contains thirty-six square miles of territory. Was chartered by Gov. Wentworth May 20, 1727. Containing, in 1880, 1,317 inhabitants.

On the east lie the Blue Hills, on the north are the Alton and Gilmanton mountains, and on the south lies the Catamount, looking down on the valley of the Suncook river as it passes the westerly boundary of the town. It is a region of hill and valley, of beautiful rivers and ponds, and laughing brooks.

A community born and educated amid such scenery, breathing the air of its hills and drinking the waters that flow in hundreds of rills down its hillsides, till they form the Suncook,—must love their childhood home. For the past fifty years Barnstead has been sending out her sons and daughters to other parts of the land to find new homes. Its first emigrants found homes in Massachusetts, Vermont, and New York, and afterwards they sought Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. As new territory was opened,

they helped swell the mighty stream of emigration that has peopled the great West.

To-day they may be found in twenty-eight states and territories. Some of its sons and daughters are looking out on the Pacific, others are in the valley of the Father of Waters or are fanned by the soft winds of the Gulf.

Scattered over the land, these emigrants have ever yearned for the home of their fathers, while those who remained around the old hearthstones were eager to once more clasp the hands of loved ones, look once more into long remembered faces, and hear once again the voices that were music to their youthful ears.

This was especially true of those who had passed the meridian and were nearing the sunset of life.

By a sort of common consent, residents and emigrants seemed ready for a Reunion of the children of old Barnstead.

The question has been asked, Where did the idea of this reunion originate? This may be a fitting place for answering that question. During the winter of 1877-78, a few of the sons and daughters of Barnstead residing in Concord, N. H., prominent among whom were Col. E. S. Nutter, J. L. Pickering, Esq., George W. Drew, Esq., Mrs. James R. Hill, and Laura Garland Carr, determined to hold a reunion of the sons and daughters of Barnstead living in Concord, with invited guests from the mother town and other places in New Hampshire where Barnstead sons had located.

Such a reunion was held on the evening of February 28, 1878, at the Phenix Hotel, in Concord. There were present from Barnstead, a delegation of sixty citizens, led by the Barnstead Brass Band.

Col. E. S. Nutter presided and made the reception address. Laura Garland Carr read an original poem. Short addresses were made by J. G. Sinclair, Lewis W. Clark, J. Horace Kent, J. P. Newell, and Charles S. George. This, with a supper such as that famous hotel can provide, made the occasion a most enjoyable one.

The resident sons of Barnstead returned home feeling that some day the wanderers from the old town should be invited home to the old domain, and here, amid the scenes of childhood, hold a grand family reunion.

The subject was talked of from time to time, but, from various causes, no decided action was taken until, at the annual town meeting in March, 1882, it was voted to hold a reunion the coming autumn.

Subsequently the following officers were chosen:

PRESIDENT.

Charles S. George.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

John Walker,
John Pendergast,
Joseph Jenkins,
Caleb Willey,
John B. Garland,
John L. Nutter,
Seth Shackford.