

**MEMOIR OF
TIMOTHY FARRAR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649165568

Memoir of Timothy Farrar by Sarah Farrar & A. P. Peabody

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SARAH FARRAR & A. P. PEABODY

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J. Farrar.

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OF
TIMOTHY FARRAR, LL.D.

BY THE REV. SAMUEL LEE, A.M.

WITH A SKETCH
OF
MRS. SARAH FARRAR,
BY
THE REV. A. P. PEABODY, D.D., LL.D.

BOSTON:
FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.
1875.

17341.34

US 13581.3

TWO HUNDRED COPIES.

The Memoir of Judge Farrar is Reprinted from the HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER, for July, 1875.

1875

David Clapp & Son, Printers,
664 Washington St., Boston.

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TIMOTHY FARRAR.

A LIFE of eighty-six years in New-England, during any century since its settlement began, would have covered a period full of interest and crowded with events of no little importance, whether considered in their immediate relations or as a part of the general history of the country. It may fairly be claimed, however, and probably will be admitted, that the period of our history which is bounded on the one hand by the American Revolution and on the other by the centennial year of American Independence, is not the least important in our annals. This, which we may denominate the constructive era in the life of the nation, has been rich in

men of public and private virtue, intelligence and learning, in warriors and statesmen, in orators and poets, in jurists and theologians, in merchants and inventors. The leading men of the revolutionary epoch were cast in no common mould, and they stamped the impress of their character upon the institutions which they framed, and upon the generations that followed. To have been born, reared and educated among such men as laid the foundations of our political fabric and devised our civil polity; to have helped, in no inconsiderable degree, in completing these institutions and in adapting them to the growing and varying needs of an expanding population and a progressive civilization; to have helped in building up and conserving the institutions of learning and sound morals; to have had a share in the interpretation and administration of our written and unwritten law; to have added something, not a little, to the accepted body of our jurisprudential wisdom; to have contributed something permanent and valuable to the elucidation of the great charter of delegated powers under which our federal union was secured;—all this would justly entitle a man to the honorable regards of his contemporaries and of posterity. In addition, to have associated from

early youth with men of mark and wisdom and power,—their disciple, companion and friend; to have been endowed with a mind, penetrative, inquisitive and exact, with a rare capacity for receiving and retaining impressions of men and events, and for searching out the hidden springs of human action; to have kept the power of thought, analysis and expression, vigorous to the last,—always and to the end of life a student; to have been moderate in prosperity and cheerful in adversity; to have been the cherished companion of the young as well as the old; ever hopeful, never despairing of one's country and one's fellow-men;—such a life and character, such labors and virtues, if fully portrayed, could not fail to be both interesting and instructive. This character, these labors and virtues, belonged to the subject of this brief memoir.

The life of Judge Farrar illustrates the power of example. He was the son of Hon. Timothy and Anna (Bancroft) Farrar. His father was graduated at Harvard College in 1767, and lived in New-Ipswich, N. H., to the advanced age of one hundred and two. His character embodied a rare combination of excellencies,

developed by circumstances peculiar to his time. He was just coming into vigorous manhood, at the opening of the revolutionary epoch of our history.¹ On the memorable 19th of April, 1775, he seized his musket and marched, with a band of his townsmen, for Concord. He was prominent in those efforts by which the authority of the British Government was set aside and a new and independent government organized. At the early age of twenty-eight he was made a judge of the court of common pleas. In 1791 he was promoted to the supreme bench as associate justice, and in 1802 he was appointed chief-justice, but declined. Early in life the eloquence of Whitefield won his heart and started him upon a course of Christian activity.

Timothy Farrar, junior, was born to breathe the atmosphere of such a family, and an heir to its blessings. The power of the exemplification of the principles of an intelligent, Christian, patriotic manhood was never remitted, nor weakened by the admixture of inferior elements. As an only son he was the object of a very intense

¹ See HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER, vi. 318-28, for a memoir of the Farrar Family, and notice, with portrait of Judge FARRAR, senior; also History of New-Ipswich, 356-73.