

**THE WESTFIELD JUBILEE A REPORT OF
THE CELEBRATION AT WESTFIELD,
MASS., ON THE TWO HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION
OF THE TOWN, OCTOBER 6, 1869**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649388615

The Westfield jubilee a report of the celebration at Westfield, Mass., on the two hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town, October 6, 1869 by William G. Bates

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM G. BATES

**THE WESTFIELD JUBILEE A REPORT OF
THE CELEBRATION AT WESTFIELD,
MASS., ON THE TWO HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION
OF THE TOWN, OCTOBER 6, 1869**

THE
Westfield Jubilee:

A REPORT OF THE
CELEBRATION AT WESTFIELD, MASS.,
ON THE
TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
Of the Incorporation of the Town,
OCTOBER 6, 1869,

WITH THE
HISTORICAL ADDRESS

OF THE
HON. WILLIAM G. BATES,

AND OTHER
SPEECHES AND POEMS OF THE OCCASION,

With an Appendix,

Containing Historical Documents of Local Interest.

WESTFIELD, MASS.:
CLARK & STORY, PUBLISHERS
1870.

GA

WESTFIELD, January 1, 1870.

HON. WILLIAM G. BATES:

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Bi-Centennial General Committee, held November 20, 1869, the following resolves were adopted unanimously, viz.:

1. That in behalf of the town of Westfield, the thanks of this Committee be presented to the Hon. William G. Bates, for his able and eloquent historical address; and that he be requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication.

2. That a Committee of Publication be appointed by this Committee, to prepare for the press, and publish the proceedings of the Bi-Centennial Celebration, including the address of the Hon. William G. Bates, and such accompanying notes and documents as may be of permanent interest and value to the citizens and former residents of Westfield.

Voted, That Dr. J. Abbott, Edward B. Gillett and Thomas Kneil constitute the Committee of Publication.

In accordance with the above, we have the honor of soliciting a copy of your very excellent and able address at the Bi-Centennial Celebration, held October 6, 1869, of the incorporation of our ancient and beloved town, for publication.

We shall also be pleased, if you can accompany it with such "notes and documents" in your possession as "may be of permanent interest and value to the citizens and former residents of Westfield," and we are persuaded it will be your pleasure to present such to the public in connection therewith.

Yours respectfully,

JEMIEL ABBOTT,

E. B. GILLETT,

T. KNEIL.

WESTFIELD, January 1, 1870.

HONS. JERIEL ABBOTT, EDWARD B. GILLET AND THOMAS KNEIL,
Committee of Publication, &c.:

Gentlemen,—The historical address, of which you request a copy for publication, is at your disposal, with my thanks for the approbation which has been extended to it by my fellow-townsmen, and to yourselves, for your kindly expression of it.

In the preparation of the address, only a part of which could have been delivered, with a proper regard for the other exercises of the day, a general exploration was made for the discovery of historical facts; and, in the investigation, many documents, papers and records were brought to light, which were new to me, and which, in my opinion, should be collected and preserved for future use. The records of our own town are in a dilapidated and decaying condition, and they need the immediate care of a fond antiquary to rescue them from a speedy oblivion. The publication of all the materials which I have gathered, which relate to the early incidents, the original settlers, and, in fine, the history of the town, would form a large volume; but I cheerfully render to you from the collection, what, I trust, will be of a general interest to our present population, and, still more, to all the former inhabitants of Westfield.

I am, gentlemen, with respect, &c., your obedient,

WILLIAM G. BATES.

Introduction.



THE history of a town consists of facts, ordinarily, so scattered and disconnected, as to be sought out and gathered with great difficulty. In preparing the history of an old town,—one, which was founded within a half century of the landing of the Pilgrims,—there is a still greater difficulty in the collection of materials, and more uncertainty as to the accuracy of the facts and conclusions. The early records of the older towns were very imperfectly kept; many important facts were but partially stated, and “time’s decaying fingers” have obliterated and removed many irrecoverable fragments from the originally too scanty pages.

In preparing for the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of Westfield, much time and labor were expended in the examination of the papers and records of the town, and of the ancestral town of Springfield. A search was also prosecuted among the papers, documents and records of Springfield, and those deposited in the archives of the commonwealth; and some important facts were there obtained, which are new to the public.

Information of a traditionary character, also, was sought from some of the old inhabitants ; and many old papers, illustrating the early history of the town, were obtained from their descendants. It was a matter of deep regret to have been informed, that valuable papers for historical purposes, had been destroyed, from time to time, as of no supposed importance.

In the opinion of the committee of the town, and, also, in that of very many of our citizens, a collection of facts, gathered with much labor, and at considerable expense, and collected and arranged in a methodical manner for future reference, should be embodied in some permanent form. Such a volume will constitute an enduring record of our early history, for which the future generations of those, who are here to live after us, will be thankful to us. The celebration itself will be a landmark in the history of our ancient town ; and, however humble may be the individuals who participated in the celebration, either as contributors to the facts, fancy, sentiment, or history, which were displayed, or who came merely as visitors from distant homes to the old hearth-stone of their race, the memorial of their names, connected with the events, which transpired upon this eventful historical day, will be a record which will be appreciated more and more highly, as advancing ages shall enhance the interest of posterity in the history of their ancestors.

We can not but have noticed an awakened interest in the people of New England, in their genealogical record. In the days of the founders of our colonial nation, they

were not solicitous for the details of its future history. Their hands were fully occupied with their present responsibilities. Although they never doubted the ultimate success of the efforts, to which they had consecrated themselves, yet "to be, or not to be," was with them, individually, the important question. But, at the present day, when their most fanciful imaginings have been more than realized, in the wide-spreading extent of our Union, and in the well-adapted powers of our Constitution, for the government of the nation, however widely extended may be its territorial boundaries, their early history has become invested with a fascinating interest. We would gladly know the minute history of those from whom we sprang. Their appearance, their dress, their manner of life, and their daily thoughts arouse our eager curiosity; and we would rejoice to snatch the most trifling circumstances, connected with them, from oblivion. Along with this desire to bring forward, and produce before us, the faded pictures of the past, comes the correlative wish, to perpetuate the present, for the eye of posterity. This desire discloses itself in various manifestations of action. When the foundations are laid of some memorial column, or an edifice of a public character, and, sometimes even, for the purposes of business, a corner-stone is placed with imposing ceremonials; and, in a nicely-chiseled chamber, are deposited the various specimens of art, science, literature and commerce, which illustrate the characteristics, or uses of the age. We have, upon the present occasion, a collection of historical facts, which are interesting to

us. Of how much higher interest will they be to those who will be the future inhabitants of Westfield, in the generations which are to come.

The committee, therefore, requested their chairman to arrange and publish the addresses, poems, and other exercises in the church, the historical discourse prepared in pursuance of the vote of the town, the speeches delivered at the public dinner, the documents and letters of reply from absent and self-exiled citizens, who traveled many hundreds of miles to revive early recollections, and to renew youthful friendships,—in short, all the facts and proceedings, connected with the celebration, which would impart an interest to an occasion, in which so many participated, and which will be remembered by some of them, as one of the bright days of their lives.