

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 250TH
ANNIVERSARY OF OLD
BRIDGEWATER, AT WEST
BRIDGEWATER,
MASSACHUSETTS, JUNE 13, 1906**

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Proceedings of the 250th Anniversary of Old Bridgewater, at West Bridgewater, Massachusetts,
June 13, 1906 by Various

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VARIOUS

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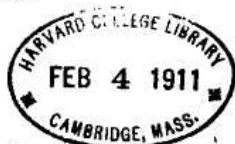
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF OLD BRIDGEWATER

AT
WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

June 13, 1906

BRIDGEWATER, MASS.:
ARTHUR H. WILLIS, PRINTER
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FIRST CHURCH, IN WEST BRIDGEWATER.
Organized 1661.

INTRODUCTION.

The inception of the plan for celebrating the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Old Bridgewater was expressed in a resolution adopted by the Old Bridgewater Historical Society on the ninth of May, 1903.

In accordance with a request of the Trustees of this Society, at a meeting held at the Memorial Building, West Bridgewater, on the fourteenth of January, 1905, preliminary measures were taken for a suitable celebration of the anniversary by the appointment of a provisional Anniversary Committee consisting of the following members:—Hon. Benjamin W. Harris, chairman, Joshua E. Crane, Rev. Howard C. Dunham, Samuel P. Gates, George M. Hooper, Simeon C. Keith, Rev. E. B. Maglathlin, Hon. Isaac N. Nutter, and on the twenty-eighth of October, 1905, a committee of five gentlemen, namely:—Hon. James S. Allen, Joshua E. Crane, Henry Gurney, Fred A. Hunting and Rev. E. B. Maglathlin, was appointed by the Society to nominate an Executive Anniversary Committee and other committees and to report the same at a meeting of the Trustees of the Society.

At the annual meeting of the Old Bridgewater Historical Society held on the twelfth of January, 1906, the report of this committee was presented and adopted and the several committees were empowered to enlarge their membership. To these committees were added the Co-operative Committees of the towns of Bridgewater, East Bridgewater and West Bridgewater which were chosen by the several towns at the request of the Society, and subsequently the members of all committees were included in the list of the general Executive Committee of the celebration.

At the annual town meetings of Bridgewater, East Bridgewater and West Bridgewater, in response to a petition of members of the Society residing therein, the sum of one hundred dollars in each town was appropriated for the purposes of the anniversary to be expended by the Historical Society, and to this sum the city of Brockton was invited to contribute a cooperative appropriation to be expended in like manner.

In view of the desire for a general celebration in which all citizens should unite, with larger expenditure than had been primarily planned, the Old Bridgewater Historical Society at its regular meeting on the thirtieth of April, 1906, transferred its responsibilities to the General Executive Committee and efforts were accordingly made to obtain additional contributions to the treasury of the committee.

The town of West Bridgewater unanimously voted to appropriate an additional sum of \$300.00 towards defraying the expenses of the celebration, and to empower the Selectmen to draw orders on the town treasurer for such sums as the Executive Committee should deem necessary, not to exceed the sum of \$400.00, provided that the towns of Bridgewater and East Bridgewater and the City of Brockton each appropriate for that purpose a sum not less than \$400.00.

And it was further provided that if either of the said towns of Bridgewater, East Bridgewater and the City of Brockton appropriate for that purpose a sum less than \$400.00 or fail to make for that purpose any appropriation, that the selectmen shall be authorized to draw on the town treasurer for that purpose sums of money not exceeding the average amounts appropriated by the towns of Bridgewater, East Bridgewater and the City of Brockton.

The City of Brockton failed officially to grant any appropriation for the purposes of the celebration. The town of East Bridgewater at a special town meeting took unfavorable action in relation to an additional appropriation and the town of Bridgewater was accordingly not requested to take the matter into consideration.

Individual subscriptions were accepted to meet the requirements of the General Executive Committee and all arrange-

ments were made for the celebration of the Anniversary in accordance with the original purpose.

All citizens of the original territory of Old Bridgewater were invited to observe the day with patriotic display and decorations, the children of the public schools were invited to participate in the exercises and the co-operation of the committees accomplished the tasks committed to their care with gratifying success.

On the ninth of June, 1906, the following resolution was adopted by the Executive Committee:—

That the chair appoint a committee of three to nominate a committee of five to be chosen and designated a Publication Committee:

That said Publication Committee be authorized to call upon the Secretary of the Executive Committee for any or all documents belonging to said committee in his possession:

That said Publication Committee shall thereafter and as soon as possible prepare a record and historical sketch of the Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Old Bridgewater, print and publish an edition of the same:

That the said Publication Committee be authorized to draw upon the Treasurer of the Executive Committee for such sums of money as he may have at his disposal for that purpose, provided that the books shall be the property of the Executive Committee to be circulated or distributed as the said Executive Committee by vote shall determine, with the amendment, that the surplus books together with the original papers and documents be deposited with the Old Bridgewater Historical Society as custodian.

Among the invited guests from whom were received letters of regret in acknowledgement of their invitation to be present, were:—Hon. Winthrop Murray Crane, United States Senator from Massachusetts; Hon. William C. Lovering, member of Congress from Fourteenth District of Massachusetts; Hon. William S. Greene, member of Congress from Thirteenth District of Massachusetts; His Excellency Hon. Curtis Guild, Governor of Massachusetts; Hon. Eben L. Draper, Lieut.-Governor; Hon. William M. Olin, Secretary of State; Hon.