

**A MEETING OF THE DESCENDANTS
OF EBENEZER AND MARY (HOWARD)
TAFT: AT THE CHESTNUT HILL
MEETING-HOUSE IN BLACKSTONE,
MASS., TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1891**

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A meeting of the descendants of Ebenezer and Mary (Howard) Taft: at the Chestnut Hill Meeting-House in Blackstone, Mass., Tuesday, August 11, 1891 by Carlton A. Staples

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CARLTON A. STAPLES

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OF EBENEZER AND MARY (HOWARD)
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Howard Taft

A MEETING OF THE DESCEND-
ANTS OF EBENEZER AND MARY
(HOWARD) TAFT, AT THE CHESTNUT
HILL MEETING-HOUSE IN BLACK-
STONE, MASS., TUESDAY, AUGUST
11, 1891, WITH THE ADDRESS OF
REV. CARLTON A. STAPLES, AND
OTHER PROCEEDINGS ON THAT
OCCASION.

Printed by vote of those present.

1593405

The following circular was sent to the descendants whose places of residence were known:—

The descendants of Ebenezer and Mary (Howard) Taft will hold a reunion at the Chestnut Hill Meeting-house on Tuesday, August 11, commencing at 10.30 A.M.

There will be an address, with brief speeches, singing and music, in the church, after which dinner will be served under a tent in the yard or in a grove near by.

It is proposed that the dinner shall be in the form of a basket picnic, each family bringing their own provisions and spreading them upon a common table. Tea and coffee will be provided for all by the committee in charge. No admission fee will be charged, as only a very small expense will be incurred, which can be made up by voluntary contribution.

A cordial invitation is given to all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren and other descendants of our common ancestors to attend the meeting and join in the services. A committee has been appointed to make all necessary arrangements; and it is earnestly desired that every descendant, from the oldest to the youngest, may be present to honor the memory of Ebenezer and Mary Taft and their twelve children.

PUTNAM W. TAFT, *Mendon.*
WILLIS TAFT, *East Blackstone.*
CARLTON A. STAPLES, *Lexington.*
AUSTIN A. FLETCHER, *Franklin.*

PROCEEDINGS.

The meeting was held at the time and place announced, and the proceedings were according to the following programme:—

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES.

HYMN. *Tune, "Naomi."*

So heaven is gathering, one by one,
In its capacious breast,
All that is pure and permanent
And beautiful and blest.

The family is scattered yet,
Though of one home and heart.—
Part militant in earthly gloom,
In heavenly glory part.

But who can speak the rapture when
The number is complete,
And all the children sundered now
Around one Father meet?

One fold, one Shepherd, one employ,
One everlasting home,—
Our Father's house, from whose dear rest
No wanderer e'er shall roam.

PRAYER.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY PUTNAM W. TAFT.

MUSIC.

ADDRESS BY REV. C. A. STAPLES.

HYMN. *Tune, "Hebron."*

How blest the sacred tie that binds
 In union sweet according minds!
 How swift the heavenly course they run,
 Whose hearts and faith and hopes are one!

To each the soul of each how dear!
 What jealous love, what holy fear!
 How doth the generous flame within
 Refine from earth and cleanse from sin!

In glad accord they seek the place
 Where God reveals his gracious face,
 How high, how strong, their raptures swell,
 There's none but kindred souls can tell.

Nor shall the glowing flame expire
 When droops at length frail nature's fire:
 For they shall meet in realms above.—
 A heaven of joy, because of love.

ADDRESSES BY VARIOUS SPEAKERS.

The day proved to be hot and sultry, but this did not prevent a large attendance of the relatives and friends, some of whom came a distance of twelve or fifteen miles to attend the meeting. All but two of the children of Ebenezer and Mary Taft having descendants now living were represented by their children or grandchildren, and some of them by large numbers. Among these were James and Elias Taft of Holliston, grandsons, the former ninety years of age, the latter eighty-eight years, who had ridden twelve miles that morning to be present. Their younger brother, Nelson Taft of Woonsocket, eighty-five years of age, was prevented from attending by sickness. Hon. Jared Benson of Anoka, Minn., a grandson, was unable to attend; but a letter expressing his hearty sympathy with the occasion and his regret not to be present was read to the meeting. An orchestra, conducted by Mr. Stephen Legg, discoursed inspiring music; and a choir of Chestnut Hill singers (always noted for spirited psalmody singing) led the congreg-