

**HISTORY OF THE HOPKINS
FUND, GRAMMAR
SCHOOL AND ACADEMY,
IN HADLEY, MASS.**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649372652

History of the Hopkins fund, grammar school and academy, in Hadley, Mass. by Hopkins Academy

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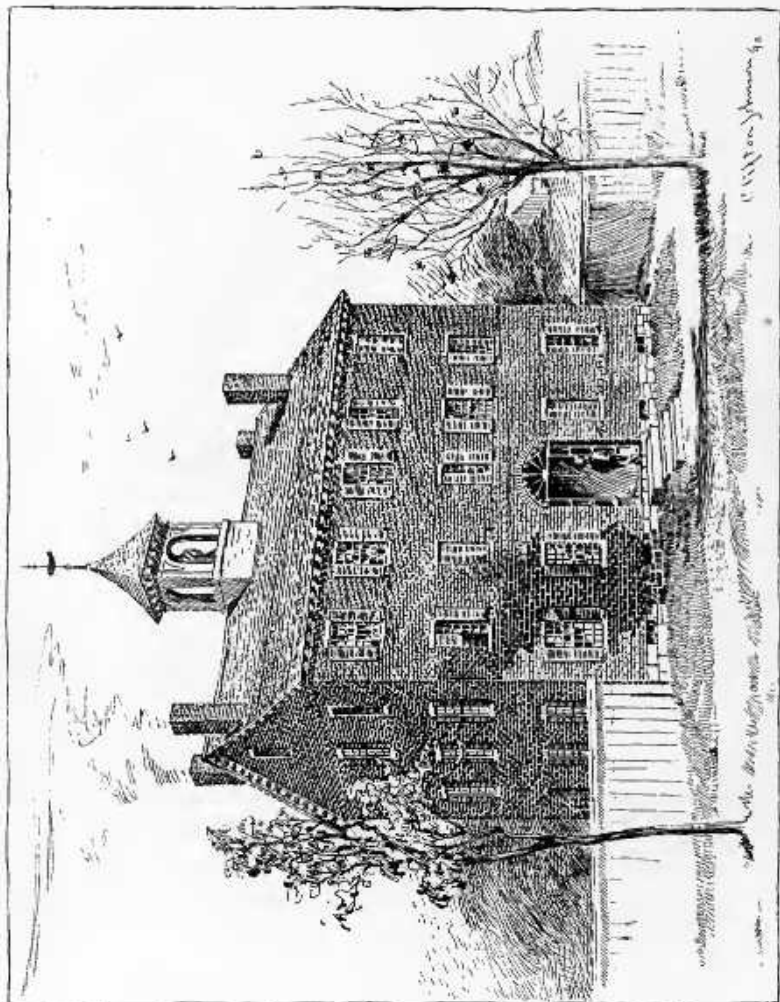
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HOPKINS ACADEMY

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FUND, GRAMMAR
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IN HADLEY, MASS.**



OLD ACADEMY BUILDING, BUILT IN 1817.

HISTORY

— OF —

THE HOPKINS FUND,

Grammar School and Academy,

— IN —

HADLEY, MASS.

PREPARED AND PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION
AND AUTHORITY OF THE TRUSTEES
OF HOPKINS ACADEMY.

1657--1896.



AMHERST, MASS.:
THE AMHERST RECORD PRESS,
1896.

LD7501
H2 H7

GENERAL

PREFACE.

The pages that follow came to be in this wise. For about a hundred and fifty years the Hopkins Grammar School had a being and did a good work in Hadley, until its Trustees by charter from the legislature of Massachusetts became the Trustees of Hopkins Academy.

Under this name the good work has gone on seventy years and more until the present time. The Fund which has in part supported the school from the first, had its beginning in the bequest of Gov. Edward Hopkins, who left a considerable sum from his estate in aid and encouragement of good learning in New England, then newly settled. This Fund received increment, from time to time, from other sources. Its fortunes have been various. At different periods its concerns have deeply moved the minds of the people, and been a considerable factor in the life of the town and the community. This interest has left its impress in the record of town meetings, court proceedings, and the doings of President and Council who were in power in New England for a short time under the British Crown from May 25 to Dec. 20, 1686.

The work done by aid of this Fund has been benign. It has been a blessing to many. The story is rich in interest and worthy of record, that all who wish can read and possess. The materials for such a history were passing beyond reach. To make sure of them, before it was too late, was felt to be a demand of duty, that did not admit of longer delay. Questions as to this Fund, and its proper administration and use arising from time to time, deemed to be new, and to demand hearing and adjustment, were known to be questions long ago raised and decided by highest authority. It was proper that such knowledge should be within reach of all, and thus occasion for strife be wanting, and peace and good will prevail unbroken.

Hence at a meeting of the Trustees of Hopkins Academy held May 6, 1885, after discussion of the subject, it was voted that a committee consisting of Rev. Dr. Ayres, Rev. Dr. Dwight and Dea. Geo. Dickinson be chosen to investigate and arrange for publication the history of the Hopkins Academy Fund from its inception, its present standing, and its relation to the Board of Trustees and the public."

It was further voted that Dr. F. Bonney be added to the committee.

It was voted that the above committee be authorized and empowered to expend such sums of money as they may deem necessary to carry out the purposes of their appointment." Nov. 27, 1889, it was voted "that the committee having the matter in charge be authorized to go forward and publish the History of the Hopkins Academy Fund which has been under consideration for some years."

By authority of these earlier votes the chairman of the committee before named entered upon the work prescribed.

This proved to be no easy task. The materials of the history were out of sight. Records and papers supposed to be in being eluded search, hopelessly lost in some instances. Very valuable original papers belonging to the Academy had gone from its possession. Many of these were found among the private papers of the late Sylvester Judd, who probably had them in his possession by permission for the purposes of his History of Hadley, and failed to return them.

After his death these papers were purchased by J. R. Trumbull, Esq. and Dea. Geo. W. Hubbard, and by them held as their own to dispose and convey, until the death of Dea. Hubbard, who by his will conveyed them to be held by the Forbes Library in trust. These papers at present are with J. R. Trumbull, Esq., until the Forbes Library building is ready.


It would seem as if these papers were still the rightful property of the Trustees of Hopkins Academy, and that they might regain possession of their own by process of law. Should they reach the place of deposit intended for them, however, they may be in safer keeping than in the archives of the Trustees. Hints are now and then met of a book of records kept by the Trustees of the Grammar School, of which no trace has been found.

Printed catalogues published by the Trustees from time to time have yielded very valuable information. But some of these are still missing after all the search that has been made.

Much valuable information has been derived from persons living who were members of the Academy in its earlier years. Among these may be named Miss Thankful Smith (now deceased), Mrs. Charles W. May, Rev. Henry Seymour, Dr. Franklin Bonney, Rev. Addison Ballard, D. D., Rev. Ezekiel Russell, D. D., and many others.

It is hoped that this memorial of a noble institution and its work may be received and held in kind esteem by all among its pupils, teachers, guardians, patrons, and friends who may scan its pages.

Hadley, Jan. 15, 1890.



CHAPTER I.

EDWARD HOPKINS AND HIS WILL.

The school known as Hopkins Grammar School and Hopkins Academy has a history of nearly two and a quarter centuries. Nothing concerning this town is worthier of record than the story of this school, and its Fund. From its beginning until now it has given the town a name and memorial widely through the land, and beyond the seas. The dweller here is quite sure to think and speak of it as chief among the good things that give honorable distinction. It has been, and is, a power for good, in the town and beyond, far and wide. It has done a good work and made a record, which should be preserved in such form as to be within reach of all who feel an interest in these things. Such is the aim of the pages that follow.

The man whose name this school bears and perpetuates was not its founder, in the ordinary sense, though to him its being and such a history are due. Honor to whom honor is due. The name Hopkins should be held in grateful remembrance, (as it is largely), by all who are or have been dwellers in Hadley, or have been members of the school, and all who have enjoyed the fruits of his bounty elsewhere, or have felt the inspiration of his spirit and example. This influence has been benign and widely pervasive. The wise forethought of this man was remarkable in one living in his time, though like so many others before and since "he built more wisely than he knew."

Edward Hopkins began life with the seventeenth century. He was born in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England, in the year 1600. He was a scholar in the Royal Free Grammar School in his native town. The Grammar School which he would establish in New England was after the pattern with which he was familiar in his youth, a school for boys, in which they were taught in the tongues and fitted for the University.

These schools were free, in that they were open, on the payment of such charges as were necessary to maintain them, to any who wished to enjoy such advantages.

Of his life previous to leaving England little is known. Engaging in commerce as a merchant he won a handsome fortune. In early life he joined the Puritans as a convert to their doctrines and observances. While living in London, he had worshiped in the parish church of St. Stephens in Coleman Street of which John Davenport was vicar. Here Theophilus Eaton was likewise an attendant. The relations of these men were close and confidential. With a company of friends, including the two just named, Edward Hopkins embarked his fortunes in 1637 to find, if not "a refuge and receptacle for all sorts of consciences," at least an opportunity to worship God in their own way and to administer their civil affairs "more according to the rule of righteousness" than was then the fashion in the Old World.

"1637, Mo. 4, 26 Ship Hector and another arrived at Boston. In these came Mr. Davenport and another minister (Samuel brother of Gov. Eaton) and Mr. Eaton and Mr. Hopkins, two merchants of London, men of fair estate and good esteem for religion and wisdom in outward affairs." (Winthrop Hist. N. E. I, 226.)

"Edward Hopkins was one who would be a foremost man wherever he might be."

Declining many overtures to settle in Boston, after a short stay there he joined the settlement at Hartford, where he is at once found sharing in the administration of public affairs. The year of his arrival his name appears as one of the "committee" of the General Court at Hartford, so that it is deemed likely that he had part in that assembly of 1638 by which the "inhabitants and residents of Hartford, Windsor and Weathersfield, did associate and conjoin themselves to be one Public State or Commonwealth" "to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, which we now profess, and in civil affairs to be guided and governed according to such laws, rules orders and decrees as shall be made, ordered and decreed" not by the King and Council—not even by Royal Parliament, but by the General Court, elected by the whole body of freemen, in which "*The Supreme Power of the Commonwealth*" was declared to reside. That constitution was the nearest approach to a republican organized democracy, in which the whole people of the several towns acted through representatives in a legislature elected twice a year by all the inhabitants, that the world had yet seen. Mr. Hopkins was elected