

**MEMOIR OF SAMUEL
HOAR: SEPTEMBER 27,
1845-APRIL 11, 1904**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649312801

Memoir of Samuel Hoar: September 27, 1845-April 11, 1904 by Woodward Hudson

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OF
SAMUEL HOAR

SEPTEMBER 27, 1845—APRIL 11, 1904

PREPARED FOR
THE SOCIAL CIRCLE IN CONCORD
AND READ AT ITS MEETING
ON NOVEMBER 14, 1905
BY
WOODWARD HUDSON

Cambridge, Mass.
Printed for Private Distribution
DECEMBER, 1905

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SAMUEL HOAR

THE usual autobiography, written in 1867, for the records of his college class tells briefly the story of the first twenty-two years of the life of Samuel Hoar.

"I was born," he writes, "on the twenty-seventh of September, 1845, in Concord, Massachusetts, a small town about eighteen miles northwest of Boston. I am the eldest son of Ebenezer Rockwood and Caroline Downes (Brooks) Hoar. . . . In the direct line of my family name the following is my pedigree:—

"Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar married Caroline Downes Brooks; he was the second child and eldest son of Hon. Samuel Hoar of Concord, who married in 1812 Sarah Sherman, daughter of Roger Sherman of Connecticut, who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Samuel Hoar was the third of ten children of Samuel and Susanna (Pierce) Hoar of Lincoln, who was the first son by his second wife, Elizabeth Coolidge,

of John Hoar, who was the son of Lieutenant Daniel and Sarah (Jones) Hoar, the son of Daniel and Mary (Stratton) Hoar. His father was John Hoar, a lawyer 'distinguished for his bold independent mind and action,' who was the youngest son of Mrs. Joanna Hoar, the wife of a wealthy banker of London, who died in 1661, shortly after coming to this country. Of my direct ancestors on my father's side my father and grandfather are the only graduates of Harvard College.

"After passing through a very precocious childhood, the full particulars of which can at any time be learned from my paternal aunt, Miss Elizabeth Hoar, and after having been ejected from the various primary and elementary schools to which parental anxiety had committed me, I entered in 1856 a private school in Concord kept by Mr. F. B. Sanborn (Harvard College, 1855). In this school I remained, not exhibiting any particular brilliancy or devotedness to study, until July, 1862."

His narrative may be interrupted here to add some incidents which he has omitted. On Sunday, November 5, 1848, his mother being away from home, Judge Hoar wrote

to her: "Gen. Tom Thumb visited Concord in full glory on Wednesday and held three levees — two in the daytime, and one in the evening. Sammy went in the afternoon, and went up on the stage, and shook hands with him, and enjoyed it highly. Tom Thumb's head came about to Sammy's mouth." Again, on Sunday, the twenty-fifth of February, 1849, Sammy "has been to meeting all day to-day — in the morning with me, and in the afternoon with his grandfather — the pair presenting a noticeable contrast, especially as to length of legs, as they walked down the street under the same umbrella. Six feet two and two feet six. . . . Sammy had a prodigious frolic with his grandfather and 'Mr. Papa' at dusk, and was very much excited and elated; but when bedtime came had become so much tired that he felt contrary — and on being asked by Grandpapa Brooks to kiss him and say good-night — said 'No. Ba' shall kiss *Aunty*.' And on my telling him 'Sammy, say "good-night, grandpapa"' — turned his back upon me, and remarked with some emphasis, '*Ba' will tink of it;*' which caused an acceleration of his thought on my part which brought out the 'good-

night, grandpapa' with a jerk. But he went to bed at last reconciled and amiable."

On the occasion of the death of Samuel's rabbit his Aunt Elizabeth, realizing that this was his first experience of death, said to him: "Samuel, I am very sorry to hear that you have lost your rabbit." "Yes, ma'am," he answered, "I have got it in my pocket taking it down town to be skun."

Mr. Sanborn's school succeeded the Academy formerly on Academy Lane, and was kept in a schoolhouse on the north side of the Sudbury Road, afterward used for a public school and known as the Intermediate Schoolhouse, and in rooms in the house now standing immediately west of the high school on the other side of the road. The Stow lot where the high school now stands was the playground. Girls and boys came to this school from all parts of Massachusetts, and from other states, Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire; children of slaveholders, of abolitionists, of Swedenborgians, of Quakers, of farmers from adjoining towns, of parents who had traveled all over the world. Mr. Sanborn was a disciple of Theodore Parker, who was then anathema