

**MEMORIAL ADDRESSES  
ON THE LIFE AND  
CHARACTER OF HON.  
C.C. WASHBURN, LL.D.,**

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Memorial Addresses on the Life and Character of Hon. C.C. Washburn, LL.D., by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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C.C. WASHBURN, LL.D.,**





1850

*A. C. Washburn*

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

*Edward C. Washburn*

HON. C. C. WASHBURN, LL. D.,

LATE GOVERNOR OF WISCONSIN.

*W. H. Connor* — BEFORE THE

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

JULY 25, 1882.

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MADISON, WIS.:

DAVID ATWOOD, PRINTER AND STEREOTYPHER.

1883.

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## IN MEMORIAM.

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HON. CADWALLADER C. WASHBURN, LL.D.

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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, JULY 25, 1882.

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Gen. Simeon Mills, one of the Vice Presidents, in the chair, who announced the object of the meeting — to pay a suitable tribute of respect to the memory of the late Hon. C. C. Washburn, LL.D., for nearly six years past the President of the Society.

Gen. David Atwood arose, and presented the following

SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF CADWALLADER C. WASHBURN.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the State Historical Society:*

New England has produced a large number of men of strong convictions, of sterling integrity, of uncompromising patriotism, of inflexible devotion to freedom and the equality of man; and it has been liberal in the peopling of States and Territories outside of its own limits, with a substantial class of citizens who have done valuable service in shaping the character of the new States. They have carried into the new country the habits of industry, frugality and morality, inherited from the Puritan Fathers, with such improvements as have been gained in several generations by experience, and from the superior educational facilities afforded in that section of the country. In the vast numbers of people that New England has sent into other parts of our Union, there have been few, if any, in the great Northwest, who more fully represented, in their every day action, the sturdy qualities — mentally, physically and morally — of these New England Puritans, than did the Hon. Cadwallader C. Washburn, whose many virtues of head and heart we now meet to commemorate, and whose death to mourn! This distin-



guished citizen of Wisconsin died at Eureka Springs, in Arkansas, at 5:30 o'clock, in the afternoon of the 14th of May, 1882. He had been a patient sufferer from the 3d day of February, 1881, on which day he was first attacked with paralysis, resulting from Bright's disease of the kidneys, which had been preying upon him for some time, scarcely realized by himself. From this attack he partially recovered, and during the year visited Europe in the hope of finding relief in the change of climate and from the skill of the most eminent physicians in the world. The relief was only temporary. In a few months he returned to his own country, and after receiving treatment for a short time in Philadelphia, repaired in February last to the healing springs of Arkansas, accompanied by his brother, Hon. E. B. Washburne, of Chicago. For a while, he seemed to improve; but it was not long till renewed attacks of paralysis were experienced, and new complications of his disease set in, baffling the skill of all physicians, causing him to fail during the last two weeks of his life with fearful rapidity, and resulting in his peacefully passing away, surrounded by his immediate family and many anxious friends, as recorded above.

The life of this great and good man was of vast importance to his adopted State and to the country; and his death is properly claimed as a public calamity. The duty of placing on the records of this Society a brief sketch of his life, making reference to some of the more important events in it, has been assigned to me; and while I feel entirely incompetent to do reasonable justice to the subject, will make the effort, and if I fail, it will not result from the want of a due appreciation of the exalted character and great worth of the noble man, whose name and acts will be remembered, and held in the highest respect by the people of the Commonwealth through all coming time.

In the ancestry of Mr. Washburn, he goes back on both his father's and mother's sides to the early settlements by the Puritans. John Washburn, from whom he was a direct descendant, was Secretary of Plymouth Colony in England, came to this country in 1631, and settled in what was then known as the "Eagle's Nest," in Duxbury, Massachusetts. The great-grandfather of Mr. Washburn was a very prominent man in his day;

an extensive farmer, and the proprietor of a large iron furnace in Raynham, Massachusetts. He was for many years, a representative in the General Court. Our late ex-Governor is reported as having borne a striking personal resemblance to his great-grandfather. His grandfather, Capt. Israel Washburn, was a resident of the same town of Raynham, served in the Revolutionary war, was a member of the Massachusetts convention that ratified the Constitution of the United States, and was repeatedly chosen to represent his people in the General Court, the New England name for Legislature in the early days, and frequently used at the present time. His father, Israel Washburn, was born in Raynham, November 18, 1784; he moved to Maine in 1806; stopped a brief time in several places, teaching school, and following his trade as a ship builder. In 1809, he purchased a farm and store in Livermore, where he continued in trade till 1829, when he gave up his mercantile pursuits, and spent the subsequent years of his life on his farm known as the "Norlands." He represented his town in the Legislature in 1815, 1816, 1818 and 1819, while Maine was a Province of Massachusetts. He died September 1, 1876, at the advanced age of ninety-two years.

The mother of Mr. Washburn was a descendant, in the sixth generation, from John Benjamin, who arrived in this country on the ship *Lion* in 1632, and was a proprietor of Cambridge; but at an early day settled at Watertown, where, in the fifth generation from John, above mentioned, Samuel Benjamin, the father of Mrs. Washburn, was born, February 3, 1753; he entered the Revolutionary army in 1775, and participated in the battles at Lexington, at Bunker Hill, at Monmouth, at Yorktown, and at many others of lesser note, in the great struggle for American Independence. His whole term of service was seven years, three months and twenty-one days. Lieut. Benjamin became the fourth settler in Livermore in 1783, where he continued to reside till his death, which occurred April 14, 1824. He married Tabitha Livermore, of Waltham, Massachusetts, January 16, 1782, and they raised a family of ten children, of whom Martha, born October 4, 1792, became the wife of Israel Washburn, March 30, 1812, and died May 6, 1861. Of this mother of Gen. Washburn, a friend in Maine writes: "She

was a woman of great force of character, of a sweet disposition and fond of her children, especially of 'Caddy,' between whom and herself there was a remarkable nearness." In memory of this good woman and revered mother, the distinguished son has provided for the founding of an Orphan's Asylum at Minneapolis, the point of his most successful business and financial achievements, and where he accumulated a large portion of his ample fortune.

It thus appears that the ancestry of our subject in this country has been long, and, on both sides, eminently respectable, prominent and imbued with pure principles and correct habits; and his immediate family has occupied an especially prominent position in the history of the country for the past thirty years. Of seven sons, four have occupied seats in Congress from four different States—Israel from Maine, Elihu B. from Illinois, Cadwallader C. from Wisconsin, and William D. from Minnesota. Israel and C. C. have been Governors of their respective States, and Elihu B. and Charles A. have represented the nation at foreign courts. All the duties of these positions have been discharged with distinguished ability, and with much usefulness to the United States Government. The venerable father lived to witness the remarkable success in life of his talented sons.

Cadwallader C. Washburn, the subject of this sketch, was born at Livermore, Maine, April 22, 1818. Of his boyhood life, we know but little. From a letter received from one who knew him well in Maine, we extract a paragraph in regard to him in his early years: "He was a quiet, broad-shouldered boy, never in trouble, and liked by everybody; observing, studious and persistent. He lived mostly at home until about 1835, working on the farm, and attending the town school. He was apt to learn and a great reader, with a remarkable memory. Sometime about the latter year, he went to Hallowell, at that time one of the most considerable trading towns in Maine, and a place of unusual culture, being the seat of the Vaughans, a distinguished English family. Dr. Benjamin Vaughan, a member of the British House of Commons, and a friend of Charles Fox, came to this country late in the last century. Here young Washburn remained, sometimes a clerk in a store, sometimes in the postoffice, where he enjoyed opportunities for study and observation, until