

**RECORD OF THE CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION OF THE  
INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN  
OF DUNBARTON, N. H., ON  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1865**

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Record of the Centennial Celebration of the Incorporation of the Town of Dunbarton, N. H., on  
Wednesday, September 13, 1865 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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MANCHESTER, N. H.  
FROM THE PRESS OF HENRY A. GAGE, 85 MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE.  
1866.

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## PREFACE.

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Some apology may seem due for the long delay in issuing the centennial Record. This delay has been caused entirely by the difficulty of procuring the manuscripts promptly. Some have not yet been received; but it is thought best to wait no longer.

It should be remembered that, owing to the lateness of the time, several of the responses and other exercises were omitted on the day of celebration. They are, however, all collected here, representing as nearly as possible what would have been done had time permitted. Two or three sentiments, the responses to which, could not be obtained, have been omitted.

If this Record seems too minute in any respect, the readers will please consider that matters which seem very trifling in the present may become of great interest as time passes by. Let the items be judged from the standpoint of 1966, and they will have an interest not yet realized.

For errors and omissions in the parts for which he is responsible, the Editor craves a kind indulgence.

Dunbarton, N. H., January 22, 1866.

## DUNBARTON CENTENNIAL.

The first definite action in reference to a Centennial Celebration, was the posting of the following notice:

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF DUNBARTON:—It being customary for towns to celebrate their Centennial Anniversaries, and this being the one hundredth year since the incorporation of this town, by request of many citizens we hereby invite all who are interested, to meet at the Town House on Wednesday, July 5th, at 7 o'clock, P. M., to take the subject into consideration, and take such action in relation thereto as may be necessary.

JOHN B. IRELAND, } SELECTMEN  
ENOCH P. MARSHALL, } OF  
CHARLES KIMBALL, } DUNBARTON.

Dunbarton, June 30th, 1865.

In response to the above invitation, a few of the citizens came together and unanimously voted to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the town's incorporation. There being so few present, it was judged expedient to take no further action till an attempt should be made to secure a larger attendance. Measures were accordingly taken to notify all the inhabitants by a committee in each school district, and invite them to meet on Saturday, July 8th. At this meeting it was voted that the proposed Celebration be on Wednesday, September 13th, and the following committees were appointed to carry the vote into effect:

COMMITTEE ON EXERCISES:—Silvanus Hayward, Stephen Pillsbury, Nathaniel H. Wheeler, Daniel H. Parker, Charles G. B. Ryder.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:—Thomas Wilson, John Lord, Eliphalet R. Sargent, John Burnham, Leroy R. Mills.

**COMMITTEE ON INVITATIONS:**—Henry M. Putney, David Story, Gilbert B. French, James M. Bailey, Leonard Rowell.

**COMMITTEE ON DINNER:**—Charles Stinson, Henry L. Burnham, Enoch P. Marshall, Thomas Johnson, Oliver Bailey, Jr.

**COMMITTEE ON BUILDING:**—Charles Kimball, John C. Mills, Harris E. Ryder, Lyman Woodbury, David T. Whipple.

It was also voted that these twenty-five constitute one Executive Committee to arrange for, and conduct the Celebration. This Committee organized by the choice of Silvanus Hayward, Chairman, and Henry M. Putney, Scribe; and subsequently Thomas Wilson was appointed Treasurer. As was evidently necessary, the Committee held frequent meetings up to the day of celebration, a definite record of which is uncalled for, as their action is sufficiently indicated in the transactions of that day. Suffice it to say, they proceeded to solicit and collect subscriptions to defray the expenses, (see appendix) and made all other necessary arrangements.

About 600 copies of the following circular were sent to natives and former residents of the town:

**DUNBARTON CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.**—Dunbarton sends greeting to her absent sons and daughters, and bids them all—Come Home.

Dear Sir: The citizens of this town propose to celebrate the One Hundredth Anniversary of its incorporation, on Wednesday, the Thirteenth day of September next. Entertainments besitting the occasion and of interest to the intelligent and the hungry, will be provided.

In behalf of our fellow-townsmen we cordially and earnestly invite you to meet with us on that day, to unite with us in reviewing the Century just passed, and bidding our honored mother "God Speed" for a hundred years to come.

Yours truly,

H. M. PUTNEY,	}	COMMITTEE.
DAVID STORY,		
G. B. FRENCH,		
J. M. BAILEY,		
L. ROWELL,		

Dunbarton, N. H., July, 1865.

The Manchester Cornet Band was employed to furnish the music. A platform and seats sufficient to accommodate four hundred persons were erected at the east end of the Town House. The old pews having been removed from the center of the house, tables built of rough boards, and covered with large sheets of white paper, were extended across the space thus obtained. A long table was likewise built in



the front gallery. The ladies decked the house with evergreen wreaths, while high above the old pulpit were displayed the words "WELCOME HOME." Portraits of distinguished citizens, mostly deceased, were hung within the wreaths in front of the galleries.—Provision was made ready in ample quantities, the bread and pastry being furnished by the ladies. The officers of the day were appointed as follows: Chief Marshal, Col. Charles Stinson; President, Dea. Daniel H. Parker; Vice Presidents, Col. John Stinson, Capt. Benjamin Whipple, Ebenezer Page, Esq., Capt. Samuel Kimball and James Stone, Esq.; Toast Master, Henry M. Putney, Esq. The Chief Marshal appointed the following Assistant Marshals: Nathaniel T. Safford, Horace Caldwell and Marcus M. Holmes.

The day proved pleasant, and the number in attendance was not far from two thousand. The hour announced for forming the procession was nine o'clock, but owing to the non-arrival of the Band, it was delayed till nearly half past ten. The procession consisted of about one thousand persons. Its most noticeable feature was a carriage under the charge of Leonard Rowell, Esq., containing nine of the most aged guests, viz: Mrs. Anna Ray, aged 86, supposed to be the oldest person present, Mrs. Nancy Ray, aged 79, John Chase, Esq., aged 77, Mrs. John Chase, aged 80, Mrs. Polly Anderson, aged 73, Mr. John Lull, aged 80, Mrs. John Lull, aged 70, Mr. Nicholas Dolby and wife, each aged 73. The aggregate of their ages was 691 years. The oldest *native* male person present was James Allison, Esq., of Goffstown, aged 81. The oldest *native* male person still resident in town, was Col. John Stinson, aged 80.

The procession having formed at the Town House, marched once around it, then to the house of Capt. Benjamin Whipple, and back to the stand. Music by the Band next followed, and was interspersed *ad libitum* through the exercises. The President, Daniel H. Parker, addressed the assembly as follows:

#### SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF DUNBARTON:

The Committee of arrangements have assigned to me the pleasing duty of extending to you a cordial and hearty welcome on this occasion of celebrating the centenary of the settlement of this town.

It seemed proper and right, that a period of time so marked with progress in all that pertains to the welfare of man—a period in which nearly three generations have lived and have passed to the other world—that such an epoch should be particularly noticed. And in what manner so fitting as that we have a family meeting? For this we have invited the absent ones to return to the old hive, that we may see the faces of our beloved friends once more—take each other

by the hand and speak of the past, the present and the future, and that we may perpetuate those principles of virtue, morality and religion which adorn human society, and which were possessed in good degree and were handed down to us by our ancestors.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Giver of all good that the "lines have fallen to us in such pleasant places, and that we have so goodly a heritage."

The honorable and useful course you have pursued in the various professions and walks of life, has been observed by us with lively interest. You have proved that Dunbarton is "a good place to emigrate from," while we bear testimony that it is a good town to live in.

And now, dear friends, as you have come back to the old home again, we open our doors and our hearts to you, and ask that you will tarry with us so long as may be for your convenience and pleasure. And as you pass over these hills and valleys, through the groves and by the meandering brooks, and as you sit under the tree planted by your own hands and partake of its fruit, may the associations and memories of the scenes of childhood and youth be pleasant and profitable.

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The following Hymn, written for the occasion by Mrs. Annis G. Marshall, was then sung to the tune, Mount Santis, by a choir of Dunbarton singers, led by Col. S. B. Hammond. The singing book used through the day was "The Harp of Judah."

Welcome home again, ye children,  
 Welcome to your native town,  
 Laden each with well-earned honors,  
 We are glad in your renown;  
 Every heart in pleasure beating  
 With an honest, grateful glow,  
 That our fathers this location  
 Sought, one hundred years ago.

And thrice welcome to each soldier  
 Whom the dawn of peace has freed;  
 Ye have served our country nobly  
 In her time of sorest need,  
 With that old heroic spirit  
 Which our fathers used to show,  
 In the stormy revolution,  
 Near one hundred years ago.

Then to every son and daughter  
 We will shout a welcome home;  
 May our children's children gather  
 Here a century to come.  
 Tears we shed for those who slumber  
 Wishing all our joys to know;  
 May we meet in Heaven the fathers  
 Of one hundred years ago.

May our King, our heavenly Father,—  
 To whose name be all the praise,—  
 Give us hearts to love our Savior,  
 Health, and strength, and length of days;  
 Guide us ever onward, upward;  
 Keep us from the ways of woe;  
 Help us imitate the virtues  
 Of one hundred years ago.

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Psalms XLIV. 1-3, LXXVIII, 1-7, and LXVII were read by Rev. William Clark, of Amherst; after which, prayer was offered by Rev. Leonard S. Parker, of Derry. The following Centennial Address was then delivered by Prof. CHARLES G. BURNHAM, of Haverhill, Mass.