

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE  
LITERARY ASSOCIATION,  
BLANDFORD, MASS., SEPT. 21,  
1850, UPON THE HISTORY OF  
THAT TOWN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649352975

Address Delivered Before the Literary Association, Blandford, Mass., Sept. 21, 1850, Upon the history of that town by William H. Gibbs

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM H. GIBBS**

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE  
LITERARY ASSOCIATION,  
BLANDFORD, MASS., SEPT. 21,  
1850, UPON THE  
HISTORY OF THAT TOWN**





ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

LITERARY ASSOCIATION,

BLANDFORD, MASS., SEPT. 21, 1850,

UPON THE HISTORY OF THAT TOWN.

BY WILLIAM H. GIBBS.

PRICE TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.

---

SPRINGFIELD:

G. W. WILSON, PRINTER, CORNER MAIN AND STATE STS.

1850.

MS 13164.5.5

1855 July 20  
Hilled  
Samuel A. Green, MS  
W. C. Lewis 1857

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION.

"WHEREAS, OUR President, Mr. WILLIAM H. GIBBS, in researches after the facts embodied in his Historical Address upon Blandford, has incurred much trouble and expense, therefore, —

"Resolved, That the members of the Blandford Literary Association consider it an able, interesting, and valuable document, well worthy of preservation, by which the compiler has not only conferred honor upon himself, but also produced a work which needs but an examination to be duly appreciated.

"Resolved, That in expressing our cordial thanks to Mr. GIBBS for this Address, we would earnestly request and advise its publication.

"Resolved, That a copy of the above resolutions, signed by the Secretary of this Association, be presented to Mr. GIBBS, as a testimonial of our regard for himself and his Address.

"HENRY B. LEWIS, *Secretary.*

"Blandford, Mass., September 21, 1850."



## P R E F A C E .

---

In presenting this Address to the public, our only apology will be, the earnest request of the Association before which it has been delivered, and the encouragement and advice of many of our prominent townspeople.

We commenced its compilation with the thought, to amuse ourself in tracing out the numerous pleasing incidents connected with the early history and first settlers of Blandford; and ultimately, if deemed worthy, to present the product of our labors to the present citizens, in the form of an Address. Our object is accomplished in the work which we now introduce to your favorable notice.

The plan has proved to be more difficult than we had anticipated. We should scarcely have undertaken it, had we conceived the perplexity and expense which the act involved. Many of the facts here presented, were obtained from a Historical Sermon, preached by the



Rev. John Keep, in 1821, and from a Centennial Address delivered in 1835, by Hon. Patrick Boies.

We have also consulted the aged people, who are living witnesses among us, diligently searched the town records, and visited the tombs of our ancestors.

Our acknowledgments are likewise due the following gentlemen, viz. :— Col. Justin Wilson, Reuben Boies, Esq., Mr. James Watson, Enos Boies, Esq., Mr. John Gibbs, and many others of our friends, for information furnished us, and to Mr. Francis H. Firmin, of Springfield, for his valuable attention during the publication.

We trust these brief pages will be found interesting, not only to the citizens of our own, but also to those of the adjoining towns, and of the State generally.

W. H. G.

*Blandford, October 1st, 1850.*

# ADDRESS.

---

THE study of History, is now extensively regarded a useful as well as pleasing occupation. In the general history of a country we read the nation's biography, and from its bright and dark periods gather lessons to guide us in future action. Indeed from the history of smaller communities, our individual states and even towns, much interesting information may be gleaned. And no portion of history more deeply engages our attention than that which narrates the sufferings and triumphs of our immediate ancestors. In the history of our town, which fills but a brief chapter, we have collected the fresh memorials and recent traditions of our progenitors, and are enabled for the time to mingle with their spirits. To pursue a few reminiscences of the past history of our town, to bring again into notice some of those whose names we bear, and whose places we occupy, and to present such lessons as their experience may inculcate, is the purpose of this address. As the state records were burned in Boston, and as the early settlers kept no record until six years after the settlement, the materials for the commencement of this history are scanty and obscure. It appears from the facts which we are now able to offer, that about the year 1732,\* the land embraced in the town plot was granted by the General Court of the province of Mas-

---

\* P. Boise's Address.

sachusetts Bay, to certain proprietors of common and undivided lands in the town of Suffield, Ct., as an equivalent for a tract of land taken from them in establishing the dividing line between Massachusetts and Connecticut. The dimensions of the township were then estimated at six miles square. The proprietors soon after conveyed the whole tract to Christopher Jacob Lawton, then a resident in Suffield. In January 1735, Mr. Lawton by deeds of conveyance, sold (2) *two* undivided fourth parts of the land to Francis Wells and John Faye, and in July of the same year he conveyed one undivided fourth part to Francis Brinley. In these conveyances by Mr. Lawton, there was made a reservation of certain portions as lots for settlers. Messrs. Lawton, Wells, Faye and Brinley thus became proprietors in common of the township. These proprietors engaged General Roger Newbury of Windsor, Connecticut, to survey the township and divide it into five hundred acre lots. Tradition informs us that the proprietors ordered the township to be surveyed seven instead of six miles square. This was a stratagem, and was carefully concealed from the Crown and Colonial Legislature to whom it was disguised as a mistake. Since, however, they had incurred a great amount of expense in the survey, the proprietors claimed the entire seven miles square, and the Colonial Legislature regarding the position as a frontier settlement, granted the bequest, but with one condition, that fifty emigrants should be procured and settled immediately, to repel the aggressions of the Savages, and afford a defence to the interior townships. To fulfill the stipulations entered into with the Legislature, the proprietors issued proposals for