

APPENDIX D.

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PERSONAL SKETCHES.

MAJOR JAMES HUMPHREY was one of the pillars of the town, a man of intelligence, influence and wealth, for more than sixty years, from 1735 to 1797, holding the most important offices in the gift of his fellow-citizens, from his first service as constable in 1735, until, in 1781, he received a public vote of thanks from the town "for more than forty years of faithful service as select-man." He was also many times chosen representative to the General Court, and for several terms he represented his district in the Council (State senator). He was also a prominent and active member of the church and parish.

He was the son of *James* and *Margaret (Torrey-Humphrey)*, born in Weymouth, June 22, 1711, and a descendant, in the fourth generation, from *Jonas Humphrey*, of Dorchester, who settled in that town in 1637, whose son, Deacon *Jonas Humphrey*, removed to Weymouth soon after 1650, and at once became a leading citizen.

Major Humphrey was twice married; first, on Dec. 5, 1734, to his neighbor, *Ann*, daughter of *John* and *Mary (Symes-Torrey)*, a native of "Old Spain," born May 28, 1715, a descendant of Capt. *William Torrey*, the well-known "Clerk of the Deputies." She died Dec. 17, 1751, having borne him six children.

- I. ANN, born Nov. 19, 1735; died June 24, 1744.
- II. JAMES, born April 12, 1737; died Aug. 20, 1811.
- III. MARGARET, born Feb. 8, 1739; who married *Abner Pratt*, of Weymouth.
- IV. LUCY, born April 13, 1742; who married *Col. Asa White*, of Weymouth.
- V. ANN, born July 6, 1746; who married *David Blanchard*, of Weymouth.
- VI. JOSIAH, born June 19, 1748; for many years town treasurer. He died May 7, 1835.

Major Humphrey married, second, March 22, 1753, *Silence*, daughter of *Ezra* and *Silence* (*Randall-Whitmarsh*, born in Weymouth, Nov. 22, 1732, and died Nov. 26, 1822, at the age of ninety years. Her father was a graduate of Harvard College, and for many years one of the important men of the town. The issue of this marriage was:—

VII. DEBORAH, born Dec. 17, 1753; married *Capt. Lemuel Gardner*, of Boston.

VIII. ABIGAIL, born Feb. 22, 1756; died Feb. 22, 1824.

IX. SARAH, born Dec. 14, 1760; died Aug. 10, 1846.

X. ELIZABETH, born June 13, 1763; married *Charles Leach*, of Boston.

XI. SUSANNA, born June 27, 1765; married *Samuel Fenno*, of Milton.

XII. CAPT. NATHANIEL, born June 27, 1765; died Jan. 12, 1825; unmarried.

Major Humphrey died May 2, 1798, in the eighty-seventh year of his age.

DR. COTTON TUFTS. — For sketch, see "*Physicians of Weymouth*," in Chapter XI., page 190.

GEN. SOLOMON LOVELL was born in Abington, Mass., June 1, 1732, the son of *David* and *Mary* (*Torrey-Lovell*). The father was a graduate of Harvard College, of 1725, and spent a few years in teaching; died young. Gen. Lovell was a descendant of Robert Lovell, who was a member of the company that came to Weymouth in 1635, with Rev. Joseph Hull. From his youth he was almost continually in the service of the town, in an official capacity, in important positions. He also served in the campaign at Lake George, in 1756, as first lieutenant in the company of Capt. Samuel Thaxter, under Col. Richard Gridley.

During the Revolutionary war he engaged actively in the cause of the Colonies, and was promoted from grade to grade until he reached that of brigadier-general, in which capacity he held the position of commander of the military division of which Boston was the centre. He also saw hard and honorable service in the Rhode Island campaign, in 1778, under Gen. Sullivan. He was also commander of the land forces

in the unfortunate Penobscot expedition of the following year, which failed from want of co-operation of the fleet, under command of Com. Saltonstall, who was cashiered, while Gen. Lovell was commended.

Gen. Lovell was deeply interested in town affairs, in which he took an active part, and his efforts and services were fully appreciated by his townsmen.

Gen. Lovell was twice married; first, Jan. 19, 1758, to *Lydia*, daughter of *John* and *Sarah* (*Hunt-Holbrook*, born in Weymouth, Sept. 3, 1734, and who died May 21, 1761, having had two children:—

I. SARAH, born April 28, 1759; died July 8, 1759.

II. LYDIA, born May 17, 1761; married *Nathaniel Beal*, of Quincy.

Gen. Lovell married, second, May, 1762, *Hannah*, daughter of *James* and *Hannah* (*Reed-Pitney*, born Dec. 8, 1730; died July 8, 1795, by whom he had the following children:—

III. JAMES, born Jan. 27, 1763; died March 31, 1763.

IV. SARAH, born April 5, 1764; died Feb. 11, 1782.

V. HANNAH, born Oct. 18, 1765; died Dec. 19, 1765.

VI. HANNAH, born Dec. 7, 1766; died Jan. 14, 1767.

VII. DR. JAMES, born Jan. 1, 1768; died April 3, 1820; without issue; married Nov. 8, 1798, *Mrs. Priscilla Winch*.

VIII. HANNAH, born July 6, 1771; married *Capt. Luther Little*, of Marshfield, Mass.

IX. MARY, born April 28, 1773; married *Capt. William Wildes*, of Kennebunk, Me.

Gen. Lovell died Sept. 9, 1801.

DEACON NATHANIEL BAYLEY, the most important man of his day, in the South Parish, in Weymouth, was the son of *Rev. James* and *Sarah Bayley*, born in that parish, Dec. 27, 1731, the eighth of a family of thirteen children. His father was the first minister of that church and parish, holding that position for more than forty years. He was early in public life, and throughout its extended term (he died at eighty-two) no man in the town was more highly esteemed and trusted. He was an ardent patriot during the Revolutionary war, doing what he could to further the interests of the Colonies. His counsel was listened to and followed, not only in his native town, but as well in the conventions of the State, and among the

representatives in the General Court. He was a soldier in the French war, and afterwards held the rank of captain in the militia. He was also an active member of the church, where he held the office of deacon. He was engaged in all of the important work of the town during the struggle for independence, and to no one was the town more indebted for its success in that eventful period than to him. He died Dec. 17, 1812.

He was twice married; first, Oct. 3, 1754, to *Tamar White*, by whom he had the following children:—

- I. LYDIA, born Aug. 1, 1755; married *John Thomas*.
- II. TAMAR, born Dec. 13, 1756; married *Josiah Thayer*.
- III. SAMUEL, born June 14, 1758; died March 16, 1839; major in the militia.
- IV. SARAH, born July 12, 1763; died July 24, 1787.
- V. MARY, born Jan. 26, 1765; married *Nathaniel Richards*.
- VI. CHARLOTTE, born Sept. 23, 1767; married *James Richards, 2d.*
- VII. NATHANIEL, born Oct. 4, 1769.
- VIII. ELIZABETH, born July 19, 1772.

Mrs. Tamar died June 20, 1787, aged fifty-eight.

Deacon Nathaniel married, second, Nov. 1, 1789, *Widow Deborah Pratt*, who died Aug. 31, 1830, aged sixty-eight years.

JAMES HUMPHREY, Esq., was the son of *Samuel* and *Sarah* (*Badlam-Humphrey*, born in Weymouth, Dec. 5, 1754. He was fitted for college at the age of eighteen years, but was prevented from pursuing his studies on account of the sickness and death of his mother. He then began work upon his father's farm, continuing his studies in private, as best he could, and soon began to teach. About 1777, he commenced teaching in the public schools of his native town, with such success that he was retained in that position for more than a quarter of a century. He also had large classes of private pupils from his own and other towns, and was a competent instructor in Latin and Greek as well as in English. For thirty years he held the highest offices in the gift of the town, and was one of its most useful citizens. He died March 12, 1819.

He married Nov. 6, 1777, *Deborah*, daughter of *Abel* and *Deborah* (*Loud-Tirrell*, born in Weymouth, July 15, 1753, and died Dec. 30, 1842. They had:—

- I. ASA, born Sept. 25, 1778; died Jan. 24, 1861.
- II. COL. EBENEZER, born Aug. 27, 1781; died June 17, 1861.
- III. LEMUEL, Esq., born May 11, 1784; died Sept. 10, 1857.
- IV. DEBORAH, born March 25, 1787; married *Abiel Wilder*, of Hingham, and died July 26, 1875.
- V. LUCY, born Dec. 31, 1789; married *Elisha Cushing*, of Hingham, and died March 21, 1876.
- VI. LEVI, born Nov. 13, 1792; died Sept. 20, 1818.
- VII. SUSAN, born Jan. 15, 1796; died, unmarried, Nov. 5, 1825.
- VIII. LYDIA, born Aug. 16, 1798; married *Capt. Hervey Cushing*, of Weymouth, and died Aug. 25, 1847.

GEN. JAMES LAWRENCE BATES. — No historical record of Weymouth, however brief, could be called complete that did not contain a sketch of Gen. Bates, the most prominent military figure in its history, and one that deserves and holds a warm place in the hearts and memories of its citizens. The following imperfect account has been gathered from various sources, among which are the town records, private letters from intimate acquaintances, archives of Reynolds Post, No. 58, G. A. R., and the history of the Twelfth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers. It is hoped that this attempt may supply a pressing need until some competent hand shall furnish a satisfactory biography: —

JAMES LAWRENCE BATES, son of *Capt. Elijah* and *Sarah (Torrey-Bates)*, was born in the village of South Weymouth, Mass., Aug. 6, 1820. By father and mother he inherited some of the best blood of the town, his paternal ancestor being the well-known Elder Edward Bates, or Bate, as the name was then written, who was one of Weymouth's earliest settlers. The date of his arrival is not known, but as early as 1637 he was a prominent citizen and a member of standing in the church. He settled in North Weymouth (Old Spain), but soon removed to the east part of the town, where he came into possession of the Waltham-Richards mill, which remained in the family for near two hundred years. The family has always been a numerous and influential one in the town.

In the maternal line his grandfather was Dr. James Torrey, for many years a physician of eminence in South Weymouth, who traces his descent from Capt. William Torrey, who settled in Weymouth in 1640, and at once took a commanding position

among its citizens, which he ever afterwards retained. He was for several years a deputy from his town to the General Court, where, on account of his learning and ability, he was made clerk of his branch of that body. His son, Rev. Samuel Torrey, for almost half a century minister of the church in Weymouth, was one of the most distinguished ministers of his day in America. This family has also been numerous and prominent.

Capt. Elijah Bates, the father of Gen. James L., was a man of property and standing, who for many years commanded a sailing packet running between Weymouth Landing and Boston, in the days when most of the transportation between the two towns was done by water conveyance.

Of the youth of James L., the following from the pen of one who knew him intimately through his whole life gives a faithful record of his early life and character: "I can simply say that in his youth he gave promise of those leading characteristics that gave prominence to his after life. He was truthful and pure in his conversation, and, unlike so many of his youthful associates, he would not use low, vulgar, slangy, and profane words. I don't remember that I ever heard him utter a profane oath, while many of his companions were much addicted to that vice.

"He was firm, faithful, and reliable as a friend, and as firm and unyielding as an opponent; as fearless and outspoken in condemning what he thought to be wrong in those days as in after life.

"As a school-boy he was rather indifferent, and perhaps a laggard, until he was fourteen or fifteen years old, when he suddenly woke up to the necessity of getting an education, and with his determined will, combined with a natural aptitude to acquire and retain knowledge, he soon outstripped his companions; and, considering his somewhat limited advantages, he afterwards laid the foundation for a good and solid education, far superior to many whose advantages were much greater. He had a very retentive memory, and what he once learned was learned for life."

His education was gained mostly in the public schools of his native town, with a few terms at Monson and Phillips Academy

(English school), Andover, and his first employment was as a teacher in Weymouth. This he continued for several years, teaching in the different schools in the South Parish with great success, acquiring a high local reputation as an educator. He was very popular, and might have attained a distinguished position in that profession but for his proclivity for change, which induced him to turn his attention to other employment.

As a business man he did not succeed, probably for the reason that his heart was not in it, and his services in that direction were more a matter of necessity than choice; and yet the larger part of his life was spent in manufacturing and mercantile pursuits, in which he was many times engaged, and in which was exhibited his love of change.

His first adventure of a business nature was with Messrs. Fogg and Torrey, in the manufacture of boots, about 1846, but in which he continued only about one year. He then went into company with Benjamin F. White, in the same business, where he remained for about two years, when he gave up business for himself, and entered the employ of Nathaniel Shaw & Co. as a cutter, to which he gave his attention for another year.

About this time the California fever broke out, and he became one of the prime movers in a joint-stock company, which purchased the ship "Edward Everett," fitted her out, and sailed for the Golden Gate, in 1849. On the arrival of the ship in San Francisco, the company started for the mines, leaving him in charge. After a time the company disbanded, and the vessel was sold, he with a few others being the purchasers. They sailed for home, taking on their way a cargo of guano, from the Peruvian Islands. On their arrival home, the vessel and cargo were sold, and he became thereby the possessor of a few thousand dollars, as his share of the profits and investment.

Upon his return from California he again entered the employ of N. Shaw & Co., occupying his former position, where, however, he remained but a short time. Hearing that Josiah Reed was about to commence manufacturing boots, he entered into copartnership with him, under the style of Bates & Reed. This connection commenced Sept. 1, 1851, and continued about two and a half years, when he became possessed with a desire for stock raising in the then West, and, in company with M. D.

Spaulding, bought a tract of land in Genesee County, Ill., whither they went, and began the purchase of stock, but sold out before fairly commencing operations.

After about six months he went into the general store business in South Weymouth, which retained him about one year, when he left town and went into business in Boston, with a Mr. Safford, where he contented himself for a few months, when he formed a new connection in the leather business, with two partners, under the firm name of Durrell, Bacon & Co. In this he continued, with some unimportant changes, until the breaking out of the Rebellion in 1861, when the whole current of his life was changed, and he found an employment which enlisted his sympathies, and in which his naturally great abilities found congenial development. Hitherto he had labored under restraint, and was indifferent as to the result; now he was in love with his occupation, and, in his desire to excel, his mental and physical powers found their natural bent.

In April, 1861, the incipient Rebellion came to a head, and the attack upon Fort Sumter precipitated the struggle into open war. Immediately upon the first call for volunteers by President Lincoln, a public meeting was called in Weymouth; men were at once enlisted and a company formed, which became afterwards Company H, of the Twelfth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers. Mr. Bates was one of the active spirits in this movement, and by his energy and activity did much to promote its success. He was chosen its captain, and received his commission on the twenty-ninth day of April.

The company soon went into camp, and began to perfect its organization and drill. Capt. Bates, as were his associates, was perfectly ignorant of all practical and theoretical knowledge of military affairs. Everything must be learned. With his habitual determination and an ardor kindled by a cause he loved, and a congenial employment, he at once set himself to mastering the details of his profession, and day and night, with tireless energy, he applied himself to his task. His enthusiasm and example excited the ambition of his men, and the reputation of the regiment for drill and discipline, afterwards so high, was due in no small degree to this fact.

The weary weeks and months of camp duty, with the endless

disappointments and delays in entering into active service, although so irksome at the time, were not wholly evils, for they gave the regiment time and opportunity to perfect itself in that which was most essential to its future success; and well did Capt. Bates avail himself of these opportunities, for they formed the basis of his military reputation.

Delay followed delay, and it was not until June 12 that the regiment was accepted by the United States, although its reputation stood second to none for drill and discipline, and it was not until July 13 that it left Boston for the seat of war; and once upon the ground a whole year was spent before its first blood was drawn, and the regiment established its reputation for skill and courage in the field, which made it a favorite with all its commanders.

Capt. Bates early distinguished himself for his coolness in action, and the skill with which he performed his duties; and he soon attracted the attention of his superiors. His promotion was but a question of time, and he was commissioned as major of the Thirty-third Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, on the 5th of August, 1862. His regiment was sorry to lose him, but the service as well as himself gained by it; and the regiment itself in the end was no loser, for, on the 9th of September, he came back as its colonel, taking command on the 21st.

He passed through the severe campaigns of 1862-3, and, in the fall of the latter year, he was called to the charge of the conscript camp on Gallop's Island, Boston Harbor, having been wounded in the neck at the battle of Gettysburg. Here he remained for several months, returning to his regiment in the spring of 1864, in time to make the advance under Gen. Grant, in which he took command of the brigade as its senior colonel, and from this time to the end of his term of service continued to occupy that position with credit to himself and advantage to the service.

"As a soldier he was an excellent drill-master, thoroughly proficient in his duties, infusing energy and thoroughness into his command. At the seat of war, he was ever a 'tower of strength' in the regiment, his dignified bearing, his moral example and influence, and his unswerving integrity gaining for him the esteem of all."

He possessed to a high degree the love and confidence of his soldiers, and the respect and admiration of his superiors. His command was always to be relied upon, and his generals looked with confidence upon the result of any duty intrusted to him. His regiment or brigade always came into the field in good order and in its proper position, and performed the duties assigned it as far as it was in the power of skill and courage to do so. His reputation as a faithful, reliable officer was not excelled by any in the service, although many, perhaps, were more brilliant.

He was mustered out of the United States service, July 8, 1865, and in December, 1868, in recognition of his signal and meritorious services during the three years in which he was a soldier, and in which he was under fire twenty-eight times, his rank as brevet brigadier-general was confirmed.

"He was a charter member of Reynolds Post, No. 58, G. A. R., on its formation, July 14, 1868, and its commander till January, 1870, when he was elected commander of the Department of Massachusetts, G. A. R., which position he held one year; and on retiring therefrom he again became commander of Post 58, and continued in office till his decease.'

After the close of the war he was chosen cashier of the South Weymouth National Bank, an organization just established, and continued in that position for about two years, when he retired from it to enter the brokerage business in Boston, with Fogg Bros. In this concern he remained but a short time, when he formed a new partnership in the same business, under the firm name of Bates & Albee. This business was very unfortunate, and in it he lost all of his property. This was his last business venture, and he closed his eventful life on the 11th of August, 1875, in the fifty-sixth year of his age, of disease contracted in the army. The news of his death was a matter of deep regret and sorrow to his many friends, particularly to his old army associates, and his funeral was attended in the Second Congregational Church, South Weymouth, by a large concourse of friends and the remnant of his old regiment. His funeral sermon was delivered by Rev. George F. Stanton, pastor of the church, and he was buried under military honors.

The following resolutions were passed by the Twelfth (Webster) Regiment Association: —

“*Whereas*, Our beloved colonel, James Lawrence Bates, having accomplished the high purposes of his life, is now mustered out of service here, and has responded to roll-call in the ranks of our comrades over the border; therefore,

“*Resolved*, That we, his surviving comrades, former soldiers of the Twelfth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, sharing deeply in the sorrow which pervades many hearts at the loss which the country has sustained in the death of this loyal citizen and gallant defender of our liberties, bear unqualified testimony to his bravery in battle, to his rare skill and ability in command of his regiment, and for a long time, in the most critical period of the war, of a brigade; to his decision of character and great executive ability, to his personal dignity and worth, to his kindness of heart, his affable manners, and his consistent devotion to truth, virtue, and temperance.

“*Resolved*, That these resolutions be placed upon the records of this Association, and that a copy be forwarded to the family of the deceased, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy and condolence.”

In his business relations he was invariably affable and respectful; in his social life genial and lovable, while he held the respect of all with whom he came in contact. By his townsmen he was held in high esteem, and possessed to a remarkable degree their confidence.

Gen. Bates married, first, April 16, 1851, *Betsey Dyer*, daughter of *Quincy* and *Hannah W. (Dyer-Loud)*, born in South Weymouth, Dec. 30, 1829, and died, of consumption, Sept. 14, 1853, without issue. He married, second, Jan. 24, 1856, *Mary Jane*, daughter of *Capt. James* and *Betsey (Whitmarsh-Tirrell)*, born in South Weymouth, Sept. 1, 1826.

Children: —

- I. JAMES WILMOT, born in South Weymouth, Nov. 20, 1856.
- II. ANNIE TIRRELL, born in South Weymouth, May 30, 1858; died in South Weymouth, Feb. 25, 1880.
- III. BESSIE TIRRELL, born in South Weymouth, July 16, 1864.

[No. 2.]

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

TOWN OF WEYMOUTH,

MASSACHUSETTS,

FROM 1622 TO 1884.

COMPILED BY

GILBERT NASH,

**RECORDING SECRETARY OF THE WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MEMBER OF THE NEW
ENGLAND HISTORIC, GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, AND OF THE
WEBSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**

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