



CHAPTER VIII.

Military Organizations: Early Companies, Company for the Castle, Weymouth Light Horse, Weymouth Artillery, Weymouth Light Infantry, Franklin Guards — **Grand Army of the Republic:** Lincoln Post, No. 40, Reynolds Post, No. 58 — **Societies and Associations:** Masonic: Orphans Hope Lodge, Delta Lodge, South Shore Commandery, Pentalpa Royal Arch Chapter — **Odd Fellows:** Crescent Lodge, Wildey Lodge, Wompatuck Encampment — **Knights of Pythias:** Delphi Lodge — **Knights of Honor:** Pilgrim Lodge — **Weymouth Agricultural and Industrial Society** — **Other Organizations.**

MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.¹ — Very early, in fact from the beginning of the settlement, the necessities of the times called the attention of the people to military matters. They were obliged to furnish themselves with arms, and to have some kind of organized associations, to resist their savage enemies, who were ever on the alert to surprise them. Consequently, among the earliest movements recorded are the formation of military companies and the employment of men "to trayne" them. The records of Weymouth show its interest and participation in these organizations in the first years of its existence.

As the various wars began and ended, this feeling became active or dormant, and new movements were made from time to time, as fresh occasions called for them. Of the earlier organizations nothing very definite is known. In the first century of the colony, Weymouth had its troop of horse, besides its regular enrolment of militia, covering all able-bodied men of military age,

¹ The facts for these sketches are drawn from the town records, State archives, and other sources.

formed into companies and officered. This system, if the rude organizations can be dignified by such a term, continued for two hundred years.

Near the close of the first half of the eighteenth century an independent company was formed in Weymouth for service at Castle William, in Boston Harbor, under command of Major Adam Cushing. Its officers were Ebenezer White, captain; Ebenezer Porter, lieutenant; and John Porter, ensign; with a roster numbering sixty-six persons, most of whom were young men, from eighteen to twenty-five years of age. A full list of its members is in existence at the present time.

During the latter part of the century the troop of horse was revived, and in 1798 the Weymouth Light-Horse Troop was regularly organized, with John White as its first captain, whose commission dates Aug. 13 of that year. This company held its existence about a dozen years, and included on its rolls a large portion of the active, prominent citizens.

The next organization was the Weymouth Artillery Company, formed in 1801, with Nathaniel Shaw as its first captain, his commission dating Oct. 5 of the same year. This company enjoyed an active life of more than forty years, and was composed of the "first young men" of the town. It disbanded about 1843.

The Weymouth Light Infantry was a local organization, formed at Weymouth Landing in 1818, Levi Bates being its first captain, the date of whose commission is recorded as Feb. 9, 1818. It was composed of the active men of the village, and continued its existence for about fifteen years.

The Franklin Guards, of South Weymouth, was a local organization, as indicated by its name. Its first captain was Samuel P. Bayley, commissioned Feb. 26, 1822. The company was continued for ten or fifteen years.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS.¹—Lincoln Post, No. 40, named for our lamented President, was organized Jan. 2, 1868, at North Weymouth, having for its first Commander, Gen. B. F. Pratt, who had previously been a comrade of Post 15, in Boston. In August, 1873, it surrendered its charter and united with Post 58.

Reynolds Post, No. 58, was formed July 14, 1868, and numbered, Dec. 1, 1883, three hundred and nineteen members. It was named in honor of Gen. John F. Reynolds, of the First Army Corps, under whom many of its comrades served. Its first Commander was Gen. James L. Bates; and its present, Col. B. S. Lovell. Its charity fund amounts to \$13,000; and up to the beginning of 1883, the Post had expended, in relief and benefits to sick comrades and to widows and orphans of deceased soldiers, the sum of \$6,768.83. During its later years the disbursements for these purposes have been about \$1,000 annually. The funeral expenses of a comrade, to the amount of fifty dollars, are borne by the Post, in cases where the family or connections of the deceased would find it a burden to provide them. All of the members are uniformed. The Post is a most useful organization, and was never more prosperous than at present. Its regular meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.²—*Masonic*.—Among the most important associations in the town are the Masonic organizations, of which there are three.

The Orphans Hope Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons was instituted June 8, 1825; the

¹ Supplied by Capt. Charles W. Hastings and others.

² The materials for these sketches are mostly furnished by officers of the various societies named, and are gathered from their records.

charter was granted to John Edson and others. In 1830, during the anti-Masonic excitement, the charter was returned to the Grand Lodge, and Sept. 10, 1856, was reissued on petition of Lovell Bicknell and others. John Edson was the first Master, and Timothy Gordon the first Secretary. From the return of the charter the Lodge has always been in a prosperous condition, and never more successful than at the present time. Its meetings were held first at Weymouth Landing, then at North Weymouth, and since at East Weymouth, always in hired apartments; but a new hall is now in process of erection by the Lodge in the latter village, and will probably be ready for occupancy in the fall of 1884. The Lodge numbers one hundred and sixty-six members.

The Delta Lodge, at Weymouth Landing, was chartered July 2, 1869, by the Grand Lodge; the first meeting having been held on May 12 of the previous year. Edward Avery was the first Worshipful Master; N. F. T. Hunt, Senior Warden; A. S. White, Treasurer; C. G. Thompson, Secretary. The present officers are Alden Bowditch, Worshipful Master; E. E. Richards, Senior Warden; John M. Walsh, Treasurer; Wm. S. Wallace, Secretary.

The South Shore Commandery of Knights Templars was duly constituted by charter Oct. 13, 1871, Z. L. Bicknell, Commander; George Wyman Fay, Generalissimo; and E. Waters Burr, Captain-General. Its place of meeting is at East Weymouth, and its present membership (September, 1883) is one hundred and fifty-three. Its present officers are E. W. H. Bass, Commander; William Fearing, Generalissimo; Charles N. Marsh, Recorder; Andrew J. Garey, Captain-General; and Edmund G. Bates, Treasurer.

Pentalpa Royal Arch Chapter held its first meeting June 14, 1870. Stephen S. Bradford, High Priest;

William Humphrey, King; A. A. Holbrook, Scribe; Samuel A. Bates, Secretary. Its present officers are Francis K. Slack, High Priest; Joel F. Sheppard, King; John M. Walsh, Scribe; William Cushing, Secretary; and its membership is one hundred and twenty-four.

The *Independent Order of Odd Fellows* has two Lodges in the town.

The Crescent Lodge, No. 32, at East Weymouth, was instituted Aug. 22, 1845. It has received into its membership three hundred and forty-six, of whom forty-five have died.

The Willey Lodge, of South Weymouth, was instituted March 9, 1875, with eighteen charter members, and has now a membership of one hundred and eighteen. Its growth has been steady and permanent, and it stands second to none in sustaining the objects of its organization. It has a fine building erected by its members, which, with its furnishing, has cost fifteen thousand dollars. In this building are a hall for the use of the Lodge, a public hall and two stores.

The Wompatuck Encampment, No. 18, was originally organized in Hingham, but surrendered its charter Feb. 2, 1851. It was reinstated at East Weymouth, Oct. 27, 1875, at the petition of Stephen Cain and thirteen others, with George W. Pratt, C. P.; A. H. Leonard, Scribe; K. Chamberlain, Treasurer.

Knights of Pythias. — The Delphi Lodge, No. 15, was organized Dec. 17, 1869, with thirteen charter members, at Weymouth Landing; was burned out Sept. 15, 1870, sustaining a loss of six hundred dollars. The Lodge now occupies a fine new hall, well furnished, and is growing rapidly, with a present membership of one hundred and twelve.

Knights of Honor. — The Pilgrim Lodge, No. 485, at East Weymouth, was organized Feb. 27, 1877, with

thirteen charter members; first named "Cooper," in compliment of its first Dictator, but two years after this, for obvious reasons, the name was changed to "Pilgrim." Its growth has been slow but steady, and now numbers sixty members. This is a benevolent association, and pays two thousand dollars to the heirs of each member upon his death. Frank W. Lewis is the present Dictator.

The Weymouth Agricultural and Industrial Society was formed Oct. 31, 1864, for purposes indicated by its name, to promote the interests of agriculture and industry. Its first president was James L. Bates; and its present, Alvah Raymond. It owns about thirty-three acres of land in the southeasterly part of the town, upon which there is a half-mile track, with horse stables, etc. Its stock is held at ten dollars per share, of which there are about nine hundred held by four hundred and seventy members. The society holds an annual fair upon its grounds, and is in a prosperous condition.

There are also several other organizations of similar character, among them the Hibernians of East Weymouth, a Council of the Royal Arcanum, at Weymouth Landing, and many temperance associations, Temple of Honor, Reform Club, Good Templars, Woman's Temperance Union, and others, of which fuller mention cannot be made for want of space.