

FAMILY RECORD  
OF  
JOHN AND SALLY HAMLEN,  
OF  
PLAINFIELD, MASS.

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ARRANGED BY  
FREEMAN, SON OF JOHN AND SALLY HAMLEN.

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PRESENTED BY  
LAVANTIA FORD SHAW,  
GRAND-DAUGHTER OF JOHN AND SALLY HAMLEN.  
JUNE, 1881.

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Boston:  
FRANK WOOD, PRINTER,  
1881.



The Hamdens are of French origin: they came to England about 1080. James Hamblen<sup>1</sup> and his wife Anne emigrated to this country in 1640, and settled in Barnstable, Mass. He died in 1669.

JOHN<sup>2</sup> son of James<sup>1</sup>, born in Barnstable, June 29, 1644; married Sarah Bearse August, 1667.

BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup>, son of John<sup>2</sup> and Sarah, born in Barnstable, Feb. 11, 1686; settled in Eastham, Mass., in 1710; married for his second wife, Anna Mayo, great grand-daughter of Gov. Prince.

ISAAC<sup>4</sup>, son of Benjamin<sup>3</sup> and Anna, born in 1728; married Sarah Shaw, of Abington.

JOHN<sup>5</sup>, son of Isaac<sup>4</sup> and Sarah, born in Bridgewater, Mass. Oct. 22, 1762; married Sally Fowne, removed to Plainfield.

The name of Hamden has been variously written: often Hamblen, and as often Hamden and Hamlen.



# FAMILY RECORD.

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**JOHN HAMLEN**, son of Isaac and Sarah, was born at Bridgewater, Mass.,  
Oct. 22d, 1762.

**SALLY TOWN**, daughter of Reuben and Sarah Town, was born in Sutton,  
Mass., 1773.

The parties above named were married in Windsor, Mass., in 1790, and  
settled in Plainfield, Mass., the same year.

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## BIRTHS OF CHILDREN.

**JOHN HAMLEN**, son of John and Sally, was born July 29th, 1791.

**ORREN HAMLEN**, son of John and Sally, was born Dec. 2d, 1792.

**REUBEN HAMLEN**, son of John and Sally, was born May 19th, 1795.

**CLARISSA HAMLEN**, daughter of John and Sally, was born July 5th, 1797.

**NABBY HAMLEN**, daughter of John and Sally, was born Feb. 10th, 1800.

**LYMAN HAMLEN**, son of John and Sally, was born Jan. 14th, 1803.

**FREEMAN HAMLEN**, son of John and Sally, was born May 8th, 1805.

**POLLY HAMLEN**, daughter of John and Sally, was born Sept. 15th, 1807.

**HORACE HAMLEN**, son of John and Sally, was born Aug. 23d, 1810.

**JOHN HAMLEN, JR.**, son of John and Sally, was born Dec. 3d, 1814.  
(First John, Jr., deceased.)

## MARRIAGES.

*John Hamlen's (Senior) Second Marriage.*

Married in Worthington, Nov. 10th, 1819, by Rev. J. L. Pomeroy, JOHN HAMLEN, Esq., of Plainfield, to Mrs. DOROTHY GOVE, of Worthington.

*Marriages of John and Sally Hamlen's Children.*

Married in Plainfield, Feb. 15th, 1816, by Rev. Moses Hallock, Mr. REUBEN HAMLEN to Miss RHODA RICHARDS, both of Plainfield.

Married in Plainfield, Jan. 28th, 1817, by Rev. Moses Hallock, Mr. OTIS PRATT to Miss CLARISSA HAMLEN, both of Plainfield.

Married in Plainfield, Sept. 3d, 1818, by Rev. Moses Hallock, Mr. JOHN FORD, of Cummington, to Miss NABBY HAMLEN, of Plainfield.

Married in West Bloomfield, N. Y., 1826, by Rev. Mr. Millard, Mr. LYMAN HAMLEN to Miss LUCY FLINT, both of West Bloomfield.

Married in Plainfield, April 17th, 1828, by Rev. Moses Hallock, Mr. REUBEN HAMLEN to Miss FANNY WARNER, both of Plainfield.

Married in Plainfield, June 4th, 1829, by Rev. Moses Hallock, Mr. FREEMAN HAMLEN to Miss CLARISSA WHITING, both of Plainfield.

Married in Plainfield, May 12th, 1830, by Rev. Roswell Hawks, of Cummington, Mr. MASON AMES to Miss POLLY HAMLEN, both of Plainfield.

Married in Granville, Ohio, May 1st, 1834, by Rev. Jacob Little, Mr. HORACE HAMLEN to Miss CLARISSA BANCROFT, both of Granville.

Married in Plainfield, Nov. 3d, 1839, by Rev. Roswell Hawks, of Cummington, Mr. REUBEN HAMLEN to Miss ELIZABETH JONES, both of Plainfield.

Married in Hawley, Nov. 30th, 1848, by Rev. J. H. Gaylord, of Plainfield, Mr. FREEMAN HAMLEN, of Plainfield, to Miss MARTHA TAYLOR, of Hawley.

Married in Cummington, Jan. 1st, 1854, by Rev. J. B. Baldwin, Mr. REUBEN HAMLEN to Mrs. EUNICE TIRRELL, both of Plainfield.

## DEATHS.

- JOHN HAMLIN, JR., son of John and Sally Hamlen, died Feb. 20th, 1792, aged 7 months, lacking 9 days.
- ORREN HAMLIN, son of John and Sally, died Sept. 14th, 1813, aged 20 years, 9 months and 12 days.
- MRS. SALLY HAMLIN, wife of John Hamlen, Esq., died Oct. 11th, 1818, aged 45 years.
- MRS. RHODA HAMLIN, wife of Reuben Hamlen, and daughter-in-law of John and Sally, died Dec. 29th, 1826, aged 30 years, 10 months and 29 days.
- MRS. CLARISSA PRATT, wife of Otis Pratt, and daughter of John and Sally Hamlen, died Dec. 13th, 1831, aged 34 years, 5 months and 8 days.
- MRS. NABBY FORD, wife of John Ford, and daughter of John and Sally Hamlen, died Sept. 29th, 1833, aged 33 years, 7 months and 19 days.
- MRS. FANNY W. HAMLIN, wife of Reuben Hamlen, and daughter-in-law of John and Sally, died July 22d, 1839, aged 33 years, 10 months and 26 days.
- JOHN HAMLIN, JR., son of John and Sally, died in Granville, Ohio, Oct. 22d, 1844, aged 29 years, 10 months and 19 days.
- MRS. POLLY AMES, wife of Mason Ames, and daughter of John and Sally Hamlen, died in Chester, Ohio, March 18th, 1847, aged 39 years, 6 months and 3 days.
- MRS. DOROTHY HAMLIN, second wife of John Hamlen, Esq., died Sept. 21st, 1847, aged 69 years.
- MRS. CLARISSA HAMLIN, wife of Freeman Hamlen, and daughter-in-law of John and Sally, died Oct. 13th, 1847, aged 37 years, 8 months and 22 days.
- MRS. ELIZABETH HAMLIN, third wife of Reuben Hamlen, and daughter-in-law of John and Sally, died Dec. 11th, 1851, aged 45 years, 11 months and 16 days.
- JOHN HAMLIN, Esq., died April 15th, 1852, aged 89 years and 6 months.

*Second Marriages of John and Sally Hamlen's Sons-in-Law.*

Married in Plainfield, Dec. 30th, 1832, by Rev. David Kimball, Mr. OTIS PRATT to Miss SALLY BATES, both of Plainfield.

Married in Cummington, May 18th, 1834, Mr. JOHN FORD to Miss RUTH TORREY, both of Cummington.

Married in Chester, Ohio, Dec. 22d, 1847, Mr. MASON AMES to Mrs. MERCY H. RUST, both of Chester.

BIRTHS.

ERASTUS B. PRATT, son of Otis and Sally, was born Oct. 24th, 1842.

EMILY F. AMES, daughter of Mason and Mercy H., was born Oct. 21st, 1843.

STATIRA W. AMES, daughter of Mason and Mercy H., was born Sept. 14, 1850.

*Births of John and Sally Hamlen's Grand-Children.*

MARILA R. HAMLLEN, daughter of Reuben and Rhoda, was born June 4th, 1817.

SALLY H. PRATT, daughter of Otis and Clarissa, was born Nov. 10th, 1818.

FLORA A. HAMLLEN, daughter of Reuben and Rhoda, was born March 29th, 1819.

CELIA FORD, daughter of John and Nabby, was born Oct. 28th, 1819.

LUCY G. PRATT, daughter of Otis and Clarissa, was born Dec. 28th, 1820.

MARTHA A. HAMLLEN, daughter of Reuben and Rhoda, was born March 28th, 1821.

ANGELINE FORD, daughter of John and Nabby, was born Nov. 9th, 1821.



SHEPARD L. HAMLEN, son of Reuben and Rhoda, was born Feb. 14th, 1823.

MARY L. PRATT, daughter of Otis and Clarissa, was born May 9th, 1823.

OCTAVIA FORD, daughter of John and Nabby, was born Sept. 28th, 1823.

LAURA B. HAMLEN, daughter of Reuben and Rhoda, was born April, 1825.

LAVANTIA FORD, daughter of John and Nabby, was born Aug. 13th, 1825.

MARIA G. PRATT, daughter of Otis and Clarissa, was born May 19th, 1826.

SARAH E. HAMLEN, daughter of Lyman and Lucy, was born May 20th, 1827.

LAURA PRATT, daughter of Otis and Clarissa, was born Sept. 24th, 1827.

ORREN H. FORD, son of John and Nabby, was born Dec. 19th, 1827.  
(Died same day.)

POLLY R. FORD, daughter of John and Nabby, was born Dec. 11th, 1828.

LAURA B. HAMLEN, daughter of Reuben and Fanny, was born April 27th, 1829. (First Laura B. deceased.)

BERNICE PRATT, son of Otis and Clarissa, was born July 13th, 1829.

MARY M. HAMLEN, daughter of Lyman and Lucy, was born April 3d, 1830.

EDWARD M. AMES, 1ST, son of Mason and Polly, was born May 20th, 1831.

ROSAMOND W. HAMLEN, daughter of Reuben and Fanny, was born June 1st, 1831.

MARTHA H. FORD, daughter of John and Nabby, was born July 3d, 1831.

EDWARD M. AMES, 2D, son of Mason and Polly, was born Jan. 8th, 1833.

AMELIA HAMLEN, daughter of Lyman and Lucy, was born March 29th, 1833.

JOHN H. AMES, son of Mason and Polly, was born Jan. 2d, 1834.

ALFRED W. HAMLEN, son of Reuben and Fanny, was born June 17th, 1834.

SAMUEL B. HAMLEN, son of Horace and Clarissa, was born Feb. 20th, 1835.

HORACE HAMLEN, son of Lyman and Lucy, was born June 8th, 1835.  
 EDWARD M. AMES, 3D, son of Mason and Polly, was born Aug. 1st, 1835.  
 DAVID B. AMES, son of Mason and Polly, was born Feb. 25th, 1837.  
 HORATIO B. HAMLEN, son of Lyman and Lucy, was born Aug. 1st, 1837.  
 SARAH E. AMES, daughter of Mason and Polly, was born March 5th, 1838.  
 ALBERT W. HAMLEN, son of Reuben and Fanny, was born March 13th, 1839.  
 WILLIAM V. HAMLEN, son of Lyman and Lucy, was born Aug. 29th, 1840.  
 MARY L. AMES, daughter of Mason and Polly, was born Dec. 16th, 1840.  
 EDWARD F. HAMLEN, son of Freeman and Clarissa, was born June 6th, 1842.  
 MARTHA A. HAMLEN, daughter of Lyman and Lucy, was born Feb. 2d, 1843.  
 FREEMAN H. AMES, son of Mason and Polly, was born March 16th, 1844.  
 LUCIUS F. AMES, son of Mason and Polly, was born July 16th, 1845.  
 ALICE FLORA HAMLEN, daughter of Lyman and Lucy, was born June 25th, 1846.  
 EDWIN C. HAMLEN, son of Lyman and Lucy, was born Jan. 11th, 1849.  
 FREDERICK B. HAMLEN, son of Lyman and Lucy, was born July 31st, 1853.

*Marriages of Grand-Children.*

Married in Cummington, Dec. 6th, 1837, by Rev. Mr. Wagoner, Mr. JOHN B. WAIT, of Whately, to Miss CELIA FORD, of Cummington.

Married in New Lebanon, N. Y., July 4th, 1843, Mr. ARIAL S. AYERS, of Windsor, to Miss ANGELINE FORD, of Cummington.

Married in Cummington, Sept. 13th, 1844, by Rev. Mr. Mason, Mr. FAYETTE SHAW to Miss LAVANTIA FORD, both of Cummington.

Married in Plainfield, Oct. 28th, 1847, by Rev. H. J. Gaylord, Mr. NOAH L. GLOYD, of Cummington, to Miss LUCY G. PRATT, of Plainfield.

Married in Plainfield, April 4th, 1848, by Rev. H. J. Gaylord, Mr. WM. J. SHATTUCK, of Boston, to Miss LAURA PRATT, of Plainfield.

Married in Abington, May 9th, 1848, by Rev. Horace D. Walker, Mr. LEAVITT TORREY, of Weymouth, to Miss MARY L. PRATT, of Abington, formerly of Plainfield.

Married in West Bloomfield, N. Y., Sept. 7th, 1848, Mr. JOHN C. JOHNS to Miss SARAH E. HAMLEN, both of West Bloomfield.

Married in Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 19th, 1850, by Rev. Willis Lord, Dr. SHEPARD L. HAMLEN to Miss ELIZABETH B. VALENTINE, both of Cincinnati.

Married in Williamsburgh, Mass., Nov. 27th, 1851, by Rev. Mr. Sweet, Mr. CALVIN L. BARTLETT to Miss MARTHA H. FORD, both of Cummington.

Married in Cummington, June 27th, 1852, by Rev. Mr. Woodbury, Mr. ORREN TIRRELL, Jr., of Plainfield, to Miss OCTAVIA FORD, of Cummington.

Married in Abington, Oct. 3d, 1853, by Rev. H. D. Walker, Mr. BERNICE PRATT to Miss LYDIA A. POOL, both of Abington.

Married in Plainfield, Dec. 22d, 1853, by Rev. D. B. Bradford, Mr. JAMES C. BELLMAN, of Cincinnati, Ohio, to Miss LAURA B. HAMLEN, of Plainfield.

Married in West Bloomfield, N. Y., March 29th, 1854, Mr. WILLIAM D. QUICK to Miss AMELIA HAMLEN, of West Bloomfield.

Married in West Bloomfield, N. Y., Nov. 13th, 1854, Mr. RUSSELL BRADLEY to Miss MARY M. HAMLEN, of West Bloomfield.

Married in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 19th, 1855, by Rev. H. A. Tracey, Mr. WM. C. BISSELL, of Twinsburgh, Ohio, to Miss MARTHA A. HAMLEN, daughter of Reuben Hamlen, of Plainfield, Mass.

Married in Easthampton, Mass., Sept. 16th, 1856, by Rev. A. M. Cotton, Mr. SAMUEL B. HAMLEN, of Granville, Ohio, to Miss LYDIA CLARK, of Easthampton.

Married in Chester, Ohio, May 16th, 1858, by Rev. J. L. Janes, Mr. AARON VAN HOESEN to Miss SARAH E. AMES, both of Chester.

*Deaths of Grand-Children.*

LAURA B. HAMLEN, daughter of Reuben and Rhoda, died Oct. 14th, 1826, aged 1 year and 6 months.

ORREN H. FORD, son of John and Nabby, died Dec. 19th, 1827. (Same day of birth.)

POLLY R. FORD, daughter of John and Nabby, died July 19th, 1829, aged 8 months and 8 days.

EDWARD M. AMES, 1ST, son of Mason and Polly, died Sept. 20th, 1832, aged 1 year and 4 months.

EDWARD M. AMES, 2D, son of Mason and Polly, died Jan. 20th, 1833, aged 12 days.

MARILA R. HAMLEN, daughter of Reuben and Rhoda, died Oct. 7th, 1837, aged 20 years, 4 months and 3 days.

HORACE HAMLEN, son of Lyman and Lucy, died Feb. 8th, 1839, aged 3 years and 8 months.

FLORA A. HAMLEN, daughter of Reuben and Rhoda, died June 12th, 1840, aged 21 years, 2 months and 14 days.

ROSAMOND W. HAMLEN, daughter of Reuben and Fanny, died Aug. 29th, 1844, aged 13 years, 2 months and 29 days.

LUCIUS F. AMES, son of Mason and Polly, died Aug. 28th, 1845, aged 1 month and 12 days.

MRS. MARY L. (PRATT) TORREY, wife of Leavitt Torrey, and daughter of Otis Pratt, died June 10th, 1851, aged 28 years, 1 month and 1 day.

ALICE FLORA HAMLEN, daughter of Lyman and Lucy, died Jan. 25th, 1854, aged 7 years and 7 months.

MR. LEAVITT TORREY, son-in-law of Otis Pratt, died in Weymouth, April 17th, 1854, aged 34 years, 2 months and 13 days.

JOHN H. AMES, son of Mason and Polly, died Nov. 16th, 1854, aged 20 years, 10 months and 14 days.

EDWARD M. AMES, 3D, son of Mason and Polly, died Dec. 25th, 1854, aged 19 years, 4 months and 25 days.

MARY L. AMES, daughter of Mason and Polly, died April 3d, 1855, aged 14 years, 3 months and 17 days.

MRS. MARTHA A. BISSELL, wife of Wm. C. Bissell, and daughter of Reuben Hamlen, died in Rantoul, Illinois, Sept. 8th, 1857, aged 36 years, 5 months and 11 days.

*Marriages of John and Sally Hamlen's Children.*

Married at Shelburne Falls, Sept. 23d, 1866, by Rev. A. Judson Sage, Mr. REUBEN HAMLEN, of Plainfield, to Mrs. PAMELA LITTLE, of Shelburne Falls.

Married in Newark, Ohio, July 6th, 1876, by Rev. Mr. Harvey, Mr. HORACE HAMLEN, of Granville, Ohio, to Mrs. LIZZIE GAVNEN, of Gratiot, Ohio.

*Deaths of John and Sally Hamlen's Children.*

MRS. EUNICE HAMLEN, wife of Reuben Hamlen, and daughter-in-law of John and Sally, died Jan. 1st, 1864, aged 58 years, 1 month and 3 days.

MR. REUBEN HAMLEN, son of John and Sally, died at Shelburne Falls, Dec. 28th, 1866, aged 71 years, 7 months and 9 days.

MR. OTIS PRATT, son-in-law of John and Sally Hamlen, died July 30th, 1874, aged 84 years, 4 months and 16 days.

MR. JOHN FORD, son-in-law of John and Sally Hamlen, died Sept. 10th, 1874, aged 78 years, 3 months and 21 days.

MRS. CLARISSA B. HAMLEN, wife of Horace Hamlen, and daughter-in-law of John and Sally, died Aug. 8th, 1875, aged 62 years and 6 months.

MRS. LUCY HAMLEN, wife of Lyman Hamlen, and daughter-in-law of John and Sally, died in Pontiac, Michigan, Oct. 6th, 1876, aged 66 years.

*Marriages of John and Sally Hamlen's Grand-Children.*

Married in Commerce, Michigan, Dec. 17th, 1861, by Rev. Mr. Goodwill, Mr. HORATIO B. HAMLEN to Miss HARRIET BROWN, both of Clarkston, Michigan.

Married in  
to Miss

Mr. ALFRED W. HAMLEN

Married in Mayfield, Ohio, Jan. 14th, 1865, Mr. DAVID B. AMES, of Chester, Ohio, to Miss MARY GATES, of Mayfield.

Married in Clarkston, Michigan, May 2d, 1865, by Rev. D. E. Hill, Mr. DENNIS COLLINS to Miss MARTHA A. HAMLEN, both of Clarkston.

Married in New York city, June 9th, 1868, by Rev. Wm. H. Broett, Mr. EDWARD F. HAMLEN, of Northampton, Mass., to Miss HELEN ALICE CHURCH, of New York.

Married in Princeton, Illinois, Oct. 27th, 1870, by Rev. C. H. Williams, Mr. WALLACE A. HAMLEN to Miss RACHEL MERCER, both of Princeton.

Married in Clarkston, Michigan, Jan. 8th, 1873, by Rev. Mr. Owen, Mr. WILLIAM H. HAMLEN, of Pontiac, Michigan, to Miss MINERVA BARTLETT, of Clarkston.

Married in Chester, Ohio, Feb. 24th, 1876, by Rev. Mr. Anderson, Mr. DAVID B. AMES to Miss VICTORIA ANDERSON, both of Chester.

Married in Pontiac, Michigan, by Rev. C. T. Allen, Mr. FREDERICK B. HAMLEN to Miss LIZZIE WEEKS, both of Pontiac.

*Deaths of John and Sally Hamlen's Grand-Children.*

FREEMAN H. AMES, son of Mason and Polly, died Oct. 12th, 1864, aged 20 years, 6 months and 26 days.

EDWIN C. HAMLEN, son of Lyman and Lucy, died Nov. 14th, 1865, aged 16 years, 10 months and 3 days.

SHEPARD L. HAMLEN, son of Reuben and Rhoda, died in New York city, May 6th, 1866, aged 43 years, 2 months and 22 days.

ALFRED W. HAMLEN, son of Reuben and Fanny, died in

MRS. LAURA (PRATT) SHATTUCK, wife of Wm. J. Shattuck, and daughter of Otis Pratt, died in Michigan, April 16th, 1872, aged 44 years, 11 months and 12 days.

MRS. MARY (GATES) AMES, wife of David B. Ames, died March 29th, 1873. Age not known.

## Landmarks—Familiar Names Dis- appearing.

Written for the Hampshire Gazette, by Rev. Solomon Clark.

One by one their number is steadily declining. To the list of the departed may be added the name of Deacon Freeman Hamlen. His father, John Hamlen, originated in Bridgewater, married at 28, and became one of the earliest inhabitants of Plainfield, where he reared a family of ten children. For 19 years he was one of the Selectmen and for five years represented the town at the General Court or Legislature. He deceased in his 90th year, in 1852, being the last Revolutionary pensioner in Plainfield.

Freeman Hamlen was his seventh child, born May 8, 1805, and would have been 84 next May. (This was written soon after his death, which occurred Jan. 16, 1889.) Nearly all his days he lived in his native town. In June, 1829, he was married by Rev. Moses Hallock, to Miss Clarissa Whiting, daughter of Major Whiting of Plainfield. She was the mother of Capt. Edward F. Hamlen, extensively known in Northampton, where he resided many years. He is now Executive clerk at the State House in Boston.

For his second wife, Dea. Hamlen was married in Hawley, Nov. 30, 1848, to Miss Martha Taylor; four of her brothers entered the ministry. She survives her husband.

Like his father, Dea. Hamlen was quiet, modest, retiring. Through his long life, two characteristics stood out very marked in him, namely, thorough honesty and sound judgment. The prevalent feeling was that entire confidence could be reposed in his word. It is not strange, therefore, that a high value was placed on his services, and that from year to year the town honored him with responsible positions.

He was in the legislature, a member of the House of Representatives two years. As town clerk and treasurer his faithful services were called into requisition annually for nearly a quarter of a century. His penmanship, for accuracy and plainness was worthy of imitation.

(Continued from the first page of this leaflet.)

In respect to his connection with the church, which began over fifty years ago, the record bespeaks him an Israelite indeed. Humility, meekness, sincerity, spirituality, were marked features of his Christian character. In 1844 he was elected to the office of Deacon, the active duties of which, in connection also with that of clerk of the church, he discharged into the evening of his days.

The church manual, which he undertook and completed in 1884, then nearly 80, a valuable document of the kind, in respect to fullness and accuracy, gives evidence of unusual painstaking. In the preparation of that manual, it may be said, "He being dead yet speaketh."

A word respecting his devotional spirit and habits. Like Enoch of old, "He walked with God." Rev. Mr. Seymour of Hawley remarked at the funeral, that as was said of another, "in all probability Dea. Hamlen had prayed over every rod of his farm."

It is proper to say in conclusion that the Hamlens were among the musical families of the town. Some of them have obtained celebrity in localities at the West. The Plainfield choir, led 40 years ago by Captain Reuben Hamlen, assisted on a musical instrument by Deacon Freeman, also represented by the Gurneys, Shaws, Whites, Whittings, Robinsons, Macks, Joys, Roods and others, was one of the celebrated choirs in the western part of Hampshire County. For a time they were under the training of Dr. Lucas and Col. Barr, both remembered in Northampton.

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Edward F. Hamlen, a native of Plainfield, and son of Freeman, whose record appears on page 8 of this book, is a veteran of the Civil war, and has been for over 20 years, (1898), the confidential clerk of each of the State Governors of that period. It may be considered a good endorsement of his ability that he has retained that position under Governors of different political views. A few feet from his desk is the House of Representatives, whither came both his father and grandfather, as representatives from Plainfield. His grandfather came down horseback, and turned his horse out to pasture, where now East Boston is all built up. In those days the legislature held two sessions a year.



# AN OBITUARY

OF

**John Hamlen, Esq. of Plainfield,**

Who died April 15, 1852, in the 90th year of his age.

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**Mr. Hamlen was born in Bridgewater, Mass., Oct. 22, 1762.** In the year 1776, at the age of thirteen, he removed with his parents to Cummington, three years before it took the municipal rank of a town. It was among the most distinct of his recollections that while at Northampton, on his way to Cummington, the news of our country's declaration of Independence reached that town, surprising, yet rejoicing the inhabitants. At the age of 16, he entered the service of his country, for the maintenance of this declaration, in which service he continued about 6 months. For this, he was subsequently moderately pensioned by the government, and was, at the time of his death, the last of the Revolutionary pensioners in Plainfield. At the age of 28, he married and removed to Plainfield, then a district, belonging to Cummington, thus becoming one of its earliest inhabitants, though it was not incorporated as a town until about seventeen years later.

As a citizen, Mr. Hamlen was respected and honored, having received many offices of trust, by the suffrages of his fellow citizens. For nineteen years, he was one of the Selectmen of the town, and was five years, including 10 sessions, a member of the General Court, as a Representative of his town. He was also early appointed a Justice of the Peace, but steadfastly declining the legal qualifications, he never exercised the functions of that office.

In his domestic relations, he was happy, though not without afflictions. He was first married at the age of 28, to Miss Sally Towne, by whom he had ten children, and with whom he lived 28 years. Remaining unmarried one year after her decease, he was again married to Mrs. Dorothy Gove of Worthington, with whom he also lived 28 years, she having died in 1847. Himself for many years a man of feeble health, he yet survived both of his companions, attaining a great age.

In his general character, Mr. H. was quiet, modest and retiring. There was little of the emotive, or the impulsive in his nature; he was not easily excited, but was cool and practical in his views. If not so ardent in his attachments as many others, he was not less constant in his friendships. From the first, he manifested a commendable interest in the social and moral character of the town, and was one of the committee for erecting the first Meeting House in the town (an event of no small account in those times), and was ever a firm supporter of the Congregational Society of the town. It was not, however, till a late period of life that he became personally interested in religion as a saving reality, tho' for some years previous, he entertained hope. It was not till he had reached 75 years of age, that he joined himself in covenant with the Church of Christ. From that time, however, he well adorned his profession, leaving no doubt of his hearty attachments to, and his love for, the doctrines of grace, as held by the Calvinistic churches in New England. Thus believing, he quietly and peacefully sank away into the arms of death.