

# Quinabang Historical Society



## THE MARCY FAMILY

BY MRS. CALVIN D. PAIGE.

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READ BEFORE THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MARCH 31, 1902.



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We find the genealogical tree of the Marcy family firmly rooted in Irish soil. The name appears to have come into Normandy with Rolla in 912, thence it went into England with William the Conqueror in 1068, and became very common in Cheshire, where the orthography is now universally *Massey* or *Massie*.

One of the earliest ancestors was high sheriff of Limerick, Ireland; he was the grandfather of John Marcy of Woodstock, of whom the first written notice is, that he took the covenant with the church in Roxbury of which John Eliot was the pastor in March, 1685.

The date of the birth of John Marcy is computed from the date on his tombstone in the cemetery at Woodstock, to have been about the year 1662. He married Sarah Hadlock, daughter of James and Sarah Draper Hadlock of Roxbury. "The Roxbury people were the best that came from England and filled many of the highest offices in the colonial government. Nothing was lacking for their growth and prosperity but a larger area of territory, their limits being so scanty and incapable of enlargement that several persons were compelled to move out of the town and colony. The inconvenience and difficulty arising from these straitened limits induced its selectmen to petition the general court in October, 1683, for a tract of land seven miles square in the Nipmuck country for the enlargement of the town, and the encouragement of its inhabitants. This request was granted on certain conditions: One was, that families be settled on said plantation within three years and maintain there an able and Orthodox Godly minister. The planting of her colony was viewed by Roxbury as a grave and momentous affair. Town meetings were chiefly occupied with the arranging for the approaching exodus. Plans and propositions were discussed in public and private, and people were only recognized in the capacity of goers and stayers. A number of pioneers volunteered

to go out early in the spring in advance of the others, break up land, plant it and make some preparation for the main body of colonists."

"John Marcy was one of the thirteen pioneers who left Roxbury about the first of April, 1686. By the 5th of April they had taken actual possession of the land granted to Roxbury and called by them, *New Roxbury*, and by the natives, *Wapaquasset*. They found a deserted wilderness; no Indian inhabitants were visible; their forts and villages had been levelled; their corn fields had run to waste. The tract was as yet unsurveyed and unbounded. Following the course of the principal stream past a picturesque lake, they came to a rich, open valley; a noble hill lay to the westward—the Woodstock hill of the present generation. On this "Plain Hill" the pioneers established their headquarters, put up shelters, selected land and planted it, and made what calculation was possible for the coming colony.

Of the life of John Marcy we can only judge by reading the history of the town of Woodstock; from that we learn that he was always foremost in the progressive movements of his time. The estimate of character and dignity of the principal men of Woodstock was shown in 1722 by the priority of right that each had in the location of their pews in the meeting house. Their right of choice for location is recorded, and John Marcy stood sixth in the estimation of those whose 16 names were recorded.

He died December 21, 1724, aged 66 years. His wife lived until 1743. They had eleven children who were all living when John Marcy made his will a year before he died. We can judge something of the man and what he had accomplished amidst the many hardships and discouragements of those times, by his will.

The will is recorded in the probate court of Suffolk county in the year 1723. His occupation is recorded as husbandman. He made his oldest son, John, his executor. The will reads:

"I give my soul unto the hands of God that gave it, and my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereafter named, not doubting that through the merit of Jesus Christ, my only Saviour and Redeemer, I shall receive the same at the resurrection of the just by the mighty power of God." After providing for his funeral expenses, he gives to his beloved wife, Sarah, "9 pounds a year in good bills of public credit to be paid by his children in equal parts quarterly. I also give unto her during her being my widow the sole use of my best chamber with ingress, egress and regress, also a bed and furniture at her discretion, necessary utensils for her chamber and the support of her life and sufficient firewood both for cold and hot weather to be brought to her by my children equally." The remainder of his property he divided equally among his eleven children

with one condition: "Saving always that what I have advanced to any of them for their promotion and settlement in the world to be." The will was signed, *John Marcy*, with a mark and a seal.

The property was appraised at Woodstock the 12th and 13th of January, 1724. The value of everything is given in pounds and pence. The homestead lot consisted of forty acres. There were three hundred acres of land partly in Woodstock and partly in Ashford. In live stock there were 13 cows, 38 sheep and 8 horses. The color of each horse was given and the value. His own wearing apparel was valued at 11 pounds and 8 shillings. There were numberless things mentioned, with their queer sounding names, which have only become known to many of us in the past two or three years by our awakened interest in our forefathers created by this historical society. This estate of John Marcy was valued at 1239 pounds, 14 shillings and 9 pence. Then this clause was added to the inventory: That for the support of the family there was so much corn, barley, peas and wheat, also five barrels of "syder."

Of the eleven children of John Marcy, the one whose descendants have been identified with this community was his sixth son, Moses, who was born in Woodstock in 1702; at the time of his father's death he was 22 years of age, and by his father's will he had previously been given 38 pounds for his promotion and settlement; he had married the year before, in August, 1723, Prudence Morris, granddaughter of Lieut. Edward Morris, one of the original settlers of Woodstock.

"There were some things rather romantic in those days as well as in modern times in matters of love, courtship, and marriage. The parents of Miss Prudence did not like the proposed connection between Mr. Marcy and their daughter so in order to secure her effectually against his visits, they shut her up in a chamber, but as much as they might think they had raised her above him, they did not get her quite high enough. He went in the night with a stick or fishing rod and knocked gently on the window where he had ascertained she was confined. A summons to which she immediately attended by opening the window. At this interview it was agreed that he should depart out of the neighborhood to a place called Pimlico, and she was to prevail on her parents—her lover being gone, and no longer any danger—to permit her to go to Pimlico to visit her friends. This she effected on condition that the maid servant of the house should accompany her, to which she had no objections. She made several of these visits and it need hardly be told to those who know the art and perseverance of true lovers, that at these visits means were contrived to carry on the courtship and the result was Miss Prudence became the wife of Moses Marcy."

In 1732, Moses Marcy moved his family of five children to what is now Southbridge but which was then nearly a wilderness. He lived on the north side of the Quinebaug river somewhere between the river and the intervale; the territory belonged to Oxford and in the history of that town by Daniels this incident is given: "Moses Marcy of Oxford had an Indian woman sold him by the court prior to 1747. That year he was discharged from his bond; she having made way with herself, after having tried to murder her mistress."

The first improvement of the waterpower of the Quinebaug River in this town was the erection of a saw-mill by Moses Marcy in 1732, the year he moved here from Woodstock. The mill was located at the southeast end of the present dam, near the Central Mills. At a meeting of the Medfield proprietors of the grant of land, now Sturbridge, held in 1733, it was *Voted*: "That Moses Marcy have 50 acres of land granted him, if he will build a grist-mill on the Quinebaug where he has built a saw-mill, to be completed before the last of September, 1736"; three years allowed for building a structure that would be accomplished in as many weeks to-day. The location of the saw-mill and grist-mill erected by Moses Marcy was a point to be reached by roads. First, in the direction of Woodstock, as at that time, that town had been settled 58 years. The second road was to Oxford, that town having been settled 31 years. Then it became necessary to accommodate the pioneers settled in *New Medfield*, or Sturbridge, and Dudley. All these roads were built at first with the design of reaching these mills in the shortest and most convenient way. This grist-mill was also located on the southeast side of the river just below the saw-mill between the south end of the present dam and the Central Mills.

The first purchase of land made by Moses Marcy was two hundred acres for \$2000. He soon after added many acres more to his first purchase, which made him the principal owner of land in this vicinity. This latter purchase, consisting of 423 acres, included the land upon which was afterwards located the center village of Southbridge.

Colonel Moses Marcy commenced life in moderate circumstances, but soon rose to a position of distinction in Sturbridge and vicinity. Previous to 1740, he built the main part of the Marcy house; the one-story ell was added later; afterwards that was moved back and the two-story addition was made as it stands to-day. The southwest room on the first floor is finished with a fine wainscoting and frieze, and until two years ago, a painting on the panel of wood over the mantel was to be seen. That it might be restored and preserved, Mrs. A. J. Bartholomew had it removed. You all know of the disposition of this house which should have been retained in the family or decided to

this historical society to be used always as a home for its collections of historic relics and papers.

Moses Marey was commissioned by the general court to call the first town meeting in Sturbridge and was moderator for 72 consecutive meetings. He was the first representative of the town at the general court. He was eight years town treasurer; town clerk eighteen years, and selectman thirty-one years. Some years he held all these offices at one time.

Moses Plimpton, in his history of Southbridge, gives the following account of the allotment of the pews to be built in the first church in Sturbridge. A committee was chosen to lot out the room for pews, observing the following instructions: "To have due regard to age, to the first beginning in town—and to their bearing charges in town and to their usefulness." The committee was Daniel Fiske, Col. Moses Marey, and Deacon Isaac Newell. Their duty in this matter was truly a delicate one. No less than to designate the most meritorious man in town, the second, third and so on down. The committee made its report as appointed, that, according to the instructions given them by the town, the following persons ought to have the several pew spots and the liberty of pitching in the following order: Moses Marey, first; Henry Fiske, second; Deacon Isaac Newell, third, and so on. If the light of phrenology had shone at that time, it might have discovered in the craniums of two of the committee, Moses Marey and Isaac Newell, a pretty manifest development of the organ of self-esteem, being, in their own judgment, numbers one and three; the other, Daniel Fiske, was more modest, being put at number six. He was probably younger than the others. There is no doubt, however, that had this scale of merit been made by the votes of the town, Moses Marey would have been placed at the head and the others nearly as they were arranged by the committee, for their report was accepted and ordered to be put on record.

The town records and the testimony of living witnesses show that he exerted for many years a controlling influence in the religious and municipal interests of the town, and was, beyond a doubt, without any disparagement to others, the leading man in the community. He not only possessed high qualifications for civil duties but also for those of a military character; he held the rank of Lieut.-Colonel in the military company of the town and his son, Elijah, was a private in the same regiment, which marched for the relief of Fort William Henry in 1759.

At the time the colonists declared themselves independent, Moses Marey had had the experience of seventy years and was thoroughly versed in all the treatment of the mother country toward them; he

represented the town in the general court at this time. The struggle for independence had progressed only two years before his death. When very feeble and near the close of his life, he requested that the military company of the town should be paraded before his house that he might see them once more. The request was readily granted and the interview was solemn and affecting. He died Oct. 9, 1779, leaving a large estate and a numerous family. His wife, Prudence, had died in March of the same year.

They had eleven children, and by the marriages of these children, the Marcys are connected with most of the old families in this vicinity. By the marriage of their daughter, Dorothy, they are connected with the Dressers. She married Richard Dresser, father of Harvey Dresser. Another daughter, Mary, married Erasmus Babbitt, and they were the great grand parents of Charlotte Cushman. A son, Daniel, married Hannah Morris of Dudley, and their descendants married into all the prominent families of Dudley. Another daughter married Gershom Plimpton; they were the grandparents of Moses Plimpton. Another daughter married General Timothy Newell, who built the house where the artist Mr. Willard lives.

The oldest son of Moses Marcy, Jedediah, was born in Woodstock in 1725, seven years before his father moved his family to Sturbridge. When he was 23 years old he married in 1748, Mary Healy of Dudley. They lived in Dudley and he was a trader. His name appears in the town records as town treasurer for eleven years, and selectman for eighteen years. He was a man who was highly respected. An inventory of his estate was filed for probate at Worcester in 1799. They had nine children.

Their third son, Jedediah, was born in Dudley in 1757. He had the advantage of living during the most active lifetime of his grandfather, Col. Moses Marcy. Three years after his grandfather's death, he married Ruth Larned of Dudley and they moved to the Marcy homestead in Southbridge which he had purchased of his father in 1799, for \$3,333. This sale included the grist-mill and saw-mill built by Moses Marcy and 400 acres of land. His name does not appear among the signers of the petition for the poll parish in 1800, but his grandfather had signed it a year before his death, and as he held all the property at that time his signature was a guarantee of the transfer of the property to Southbridge. At the first parish meeting, Capt. Jedediah Marcy, Asa Walker, and Lieut. Robert Edwards, were the committee chosen to audit the accounts of the treasurer, and report the state thereof to the next annual meeting. A month later, in April, Capt. Jedediah Marcy deeded one acre and 130 rods for the purpose of a meeting house spot and common around the same, with the condition



that whenever the land should cease to be used for the same it should revert back to him or his heirs. This land included where the Baptist meeting house now stands, and as far east as the residence of George W. Wells. Capt Jedediah Marey was a short, thick-set man, very active, and carried on a large farm, besides running the grist-mill and saw-mill built by his grandfather.

There was nothing to intercept the view from his house on the hill to the river below, then on to the beautiful hills of Dudley and Charlton. On the west, their nearest neighbor was Gershom Plimpton in Globe Village.

Ruth Larned Marey, the wife of Capt. Jedediah Marey, was a woman of very strong character, and yielded a great influence over her family,—an influence for perseverance in all they aimed to accomplish. Many anecdotes might be told of her, but one may suffice: Her daughter, Mrs. Gould, was very sick in Troy, N. Y., and when the news reached her, which in those times came by slow stages, she decided at once to go to her. She drove the whole distance alone, in her chaise. She was a very tall, rather masculine woman, and was looked up to with awe by many, but those who came close to her, found a warm heart and a kind friend. Capt. Marey died in August, 1811, and three years later, his widow married Moses Healy of Dudley. She lived until 1848 and was always an active, busy woman. She was 84 years old at the time of her death.

The children of Capt. Jedediah Marey and Ruth Larned were Rhoda, who married Ophir Gould of Woodstock, Joseph who married Abigail Shumway and built the house now owned by Mrs. McKinstry on Main street, and William Larned Marey, who was born in 1786 in the old Marey homestead. Judging by an account given by a correspondent of a Worcester paper published at that time, William Larned Marey was a wild, heady youth. He was thought by all the neighbors to be the worst boy they knew. One winter he succeeded, in conjunction with kindred spirits, in ousting the teacher from the district school.

Salem Towne of Charlton, then a young man, was summoned as the fittest person to take charge of these unruly youths and complete the term. Everybody thought the new teacher certainly would have trouble with "Bill Marey," but the trouble did not come. The first day had not passed before Mr. Towne had discovered in his pupil an element of real good, and told him so. This, to the boy, was a most unusual acknowledgment, and it touched his heart. Someone had seen good in him. He was then capable of better things and was determined to make the endeavor. It was the turning point in his life. Such was his conduct, and such was his progress in study, that his

teacher advised him to go on, and prepare for college. It was a great surprise to his parents, but at the urgent solicitation of Mr. Towne, they gave their consent and he entered Leicester Academy. When here, he wrote and delivered a Fourth of July oration, before the students of this institution. For the strong, democratic tendency of this effort, and his discussions with the students upon political questions sustaining the same principles, he was requested to leave the academy. He then entered Woodstock Academy and prepared himself for Brown University, where he maintained the rank of a good scholar and was graduated with distinction in 1808.

Many years after he had left his school day haunts, and when he had come to deserved eminence, he visited Boston and was the guest of the governor. Among the distinguished men who were invited to meet him was General Salem Towne. When the governor saw Mr. Marcy and Mr. Towne greet each other as old friends, he expressed a pleasurable surprise that they knew each other so well. "Why," said Mr. Marcy, "that is the man who made me. When I was a boy, everybody was against me; none, no, not even my own father and mother, saw any good in me. He was the first who believed in me, told me what I might become, and helped me on in life at that critical period. Whatever of merit or distinction I have attained to I owe to him more than to any other living person."

After leaving college he taught school for a while, then went to Troy, N. Y., where he studied law, was admitted to the bar, and entered upon the practice of his profession. In a few years, the war of 1812 appealed to his patriotism, and as a Lieut. of light infantry he offered his services to the governor of New York state. At St. Regis, on the line between Canada and Nova Scotia, he captured the first British flag and prisoners, by breaking open himself the door of the block-house. Mr. Marcy remained in the service until the close of hostilities and came to Southbridge during the war to persuade his brother Jedediah, who was eight years younger than himself, to enter the service, but he could not get the consent of his mother in the matter. At the close of the war he was made recorder of the city of Troy; later he was editor of the Troy Budget, which he made one of the most prominent organs of the democratic party by his ability as a political writer. He was made adjutant general of New York state, was appointed state comptroller, and after election by the people to the same office, he became identified with the so-called "Albany regency", an organization which was a controlling factor in the state politics of his party.

In 1829, the democratic party, in recognition of Mr. Marcy's great ability and political services, gave him the office of associate justice of

the supreme court of the state, where he served three years with marked distinction. Among the portraits of the distinguished justices of the supreme court in the room of the N. Y. state court of appeals in the capitol at Albany, none occupies a more honored or conspicuous place than the one of William Larned Marcy, who, by his ability and dignity, added much to the record of this body of jurists in which he held a prominent place. Judge Marcy was the justice chosen to preside at the trial of one of the most noted cases in the state of New York, that of the alleged murderers or abductors of William Morgau, the Free Mason. In the exciting trial of these abductors, his urbanity, firmness and impartial decisions were highly commended by all parties. •

His close friendship with Van Buren and the latter's ambition to become president of the United States, led Mr. Marcy to resign from the bench, in 1831, and to accept an election to the United States senate, where he was persuaded he could be of great service to Van Buren and his political party. He came into prominence early in his career as a member of the senate, when in 1832, he uttered the famous phrase, "To the victor belongs the spoils." He remained in the senate only one year, as he received the nomination for governor of New York state and was elected by about 10,000 majority. His first message, as a literary and concise production, was highly commended. The great point of the message was his financial policy, which was regarded as exhibiting much thought, and while it was conservative, it was well calculated to advance the best interest of the state by developing its resources. Three times he was elected by the people of the state to the highest office in their gift. His defeat upon his fourth candidacy by William H. Seward, did not result in his retirement from public life, for almost immediately, President Van Buren, to whose success in the presidential campaign of 1836 Mr. Marcy had given material assistance, appointed him a commissioner of claims against Mexico. In this capacity he served three years. Upon the election of James K. Polk as president in 1844, to which election Mr. Marcy gave the influence and aid of New York state, the position of secretary of war was offered to him and accepted. Here he exhibited his administrative ability, in conducting that department through the war with Mexico. His diplomatic powers were here shown in the adjustment of the Oregon boundary with England, and his ability as a statesman was proved to be of a high order.

At the expiration of President Polk's term of office, Mr. Marcy retired to private life at Albany, and remained there during the four years of the succeeding administration, but on the election of President Pierce, he was invited to become the head of his cabinet as secre-

tary of state. In this office, perhaps, more than any other, he had the opportunity to show the full powers of his mind as a statesman and particularly in the case with the Austrian government, in sustaining Capt. Ingraham in his acts in the question of Martin Koster. In this correspondence, he greatly distinguished himself at home and abroad, and this placed him in the scale of ability not inferior to any statesman among the many great men who have, before or since controlled the affairs of that office. On the election of James Buchanan, Mr. Marcy returned to private life, and died in just four months to a day, on July 4, 1857, seventy-one years old.

The funeral services which took place at Albany were very imposing. There was a spontaneous outburst of popular sorrow, affection and pride. Not less than 100,000 people were in the procession and in the throng that filled the streets. He may be described as a person above the ordinary height, stout and muscular. His forehead was bold and full, his eyebrows heavy, his eyes deep set and expressive, his mouth and chin firmly moulded. His manners were affable and courteous, free from all pretence, yet dignified. He was easy, pleasing, and graceful in conversation. He did not excel as a polished speaker, but his straight-forward and practical common sense views were always interesting. His great forte was as a writer. He had no superiors in his state papers.

He married, first, in 1812, Dolly Newell, daughter of Samuel and Susan Newell of this town. She died in 1821. For his second wife, he married Cornelia Knower of Albany. She died in Paris in 1889. His daughter, Edith, married one of the Pendletons of Ohio, and her son, William Marcy Pendleton, is an artist of some note in Paris. He has exhibited at the Salon and received medals of distinction. He has dropped his father's name on account of family troubles, and is known as William Marcy.

Governor Marcy's oldest son, William George Marcy, was Captain in the commissary department of the United States army. With the first company of New York Volunteers he went to California, in 1847, and succeeded Gen. Sherman in command of the military post at Monterey. He remained in charge till the close of the war with Mexico. He was appointed by President Pierce paymaster in the navy, and held that office for seventeen years, performing duty in various parts of the world. After his retirement from the navy, he engaged in business in Alameda for a few years, but his eye-sight almost entirely failed him, and finally, he, with his wife, went to the old peoples' home in Alameda, Cal., where he died in 1896, aged 76 years.

His second son was educated at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and graduated first in his class. He entered the U. S. navy in 1838, and

gave twenty-three years to the service. He was fourteen years at sea. At the beginning of the civil war, he was executive officer of the Pawnee, and arrived off Charleston harbor during the bombardment of Fort Sumpter. After the fort was on fire, he landed under a flag of truce and arranged for the removal of Maj. Anderson and his command. He was in command of the sloop of war, Vincennes, in the blockading squadron off the mouth of the Mississippi River, and had made several captures, when, on the twenty-third of January, 1862, in an attempt to take two vessels and their cargoes, his limbs and body were crushed by the accidental recoil of a gun. He died in a few days and his remains were brought to the Brooklyn navy yard on the Connecticut. He had a military funeral in New York; then his remains were taken to Albany for burial. He was only forty-two years old. Both sons of Gov. Marey are spoken of in the highest terms as men of strong character and fine personal appearance.

The second daughter of Capt. Jedediah Marey and Ruth Larned, was Hannah, who married Jacob Edwards in 1806. They lived at the Marey homestead, and their first three children were born there. Afterwards, they built the house where T. Jerome Harrington lives, and later built the old house of their son, William Edwards, where Hannah (Marey) Edwards died in June, 1825. They had eight children. Their oldest daughter, Ophelia, married George Healy of Dudley. Their oldest son, William, inherited from both father and mother an erect, vigorous and strong physique, and mental energy and capacity for active business plans and pursuits, that made him for a period of fifty years a prominent figure in all the enterprises to advance the growth and prosperity of this town. He was educated in the public schools and at Nichols Academy. He married in 1850, Catherine M. Wardwell, the oldest daughter of Dr. Stephen K. Wardwell of Hardwick, and their home was always the most hospitable and social in the town. No one ever appealed to them in vain for any kindness or charity.

When a boy, he entered the store of Daniel Hodges as a clerk, and later with his brothers, Jacob and John Edwards, established a business which for several years was carried on under his name. He built the first brick block on the south side of Main street where the store of P. H. Carpenter Co. now is. His real genius was constructive and it was active and far-reaching in that direction. He would always contribute liberally of time and money to help the prosperity of the town. It was this trait of his character that placed him at the head of our public-spirited citizens in laying out and securing new and better highways to the town. It was through his influence, that, in 1849, the railroads between Worcester and Hartford through Charlton

Depot, also from Blackstone to Southbridge were surveyed, and charters secured for the construction of the same. Such was his zeal and determination to secure railroad facilities for the town, that in 1855 and 1856 he took contracts to grade the road between New Boston and Southbridge with the subscription for stock and bonds only partially sufficient to cover the expense of the work. He also purchased the right of way in order to get on to land to do the grading and change the channel of the river at Sandersdale. He expended several thousand dollars more than he received, which was never paid back to him. Until 1865, he worked to secure the completion of this railroad, and to him is due a large share of the credit for its completion. He was instrumental in getting the telegraph line built to Southbridge, and was the prime mover in procuring the survey and location of Hamilton street against the strongest opposition of the voters of the town. The site of the extensive Catholic property on Hamilton street was his gift. His enterprise and interest in the growth of the town was shown by the number of buildings he had erected; these are ninety buildings, eighty of which are dwelling houses, not including his own house on Main street. He was several times selectman, and postmaster twice. No record of his life could be complete that did not commend his social qualities and characteristics; through all the trouble and sorrow of his life he was ever the kind-hearted and sympathetic man and friend. He died in 1886, at seventy-six years of age.

Jacob and Pierpont Edwards, the second and the youngest sons of Hannah Marcy and Jacob Edwards, removed to Boston early in life, but always kept their interest in their native town, and the latter never allowed a year to pass without a visit to Southbridge. Being the youngest of the family, his advantages for an education were much better than his older brothers who determined he should have what had been denied them in schooling. He was sent to Wilbraham Academy, one of the best institutions of its kind at that time. After completing the course of study there, he went to Boston and entered the grocery business. He was a member of the city council, and had taken the highest degree in Masonry. He belonged to the De Molay Commandery. He died in 1896, and was buried here, in the same lot with his grandfather, Lieut. Robert Edwards.

Jacob Edwards, after a successful business career in Southbridge, removed to Boston in 1854, and entered the wholesale dry goods and commission house of Ammidown, Bowman & Co. A few years later he formed the concern of Edwards, Richards & Nichols, which came to be the leading wholesale dry goods store in Boston. He retired from this business about 1865, and was made a director in the National Bank of Redemption, but was really the financial adviser. While hold-

ing this position, he was elected treasurer of the Bates Mills at Lewiston, Maine. He re-organized the old Sprague Mills at Augusta, Maine, enlarging and building new mills, until it is one of the largest and best equipped cotton mills in that state, known as the Edwards Manufacturing Company.

He has held responsible positions as a director in railroads and trust companies. His opinions and advice in all questions of finance have always been considered of great value. During all these years of the most active business life, he has retained his interest in his native town, and was a frequent visitor here as long as his health permitted. He was made director in the Southbridge National Bank in 1844 and served as director fifty-five years, and as president for thirty-two years until his resignation when he was no longer able to attend the meetings.

In view of his extensive and successful business enterprises and all he has accomplished for himself and others, we may say he is the most able and successful business man that Southbridge can claim.

Mary, the second daughter of Jacob and Hannah (Marey) Edwards, married Billings Farrington of Wales, Mass. They lived in Woonsocket, R. I., and were identified with the growth and prosperity of that town.

George Edwards, the third son of Hannah Marey and Jacob Edwards, lived at home and assisted his father, until after he was married. He then went to Dudley to live, and for many years has been a successful farmer. After his father's death, he went on to the old place at West Dudley to live.

The following was taken from a biographical sketch in the History of Worcester county :

"John Edwards was next to the youngest of the eight children of Hannah Marey and Jacob Edwards. He was born in 1822. He did not inherit the strong physique of the other children and always had to contend with physical inability in whatever he undertook to accomplish. His early education was limited to the instruction given in the public schools of the town, and a short course of study in Wilbraham Academy, after which he was employed in the store of his brothers, William and Jacob Edwards, Jr., who carried on the leading dry goods and grocery business of the town. In 1844 he became a partner in the firm which continued to do business until 1852, when Jacob Edwards, Jr., sold out his interest to his brothers, William and John, who divided the business, William taking the grocery, and John the dry goods department, doing business under the firm name of John Edwards & Company until January, 1871, when, in consequence of failing health, Mr. Edwards retired from active business. In 1859

when his store was greatly injured by fire in an adjoining building, he was brought to face the question of rebuilding or follow his brother to Boston. On mature consideration he decided to remain in Southbridge and enlarge his business. He erected the large brick block on Main street, occupying the first and second floors for the business. The third floor was finished and used for many years as the largest and best hall in this vicinity. At the time, this was the only department store in the county and as large as any store in Boston. The erection of this block was the commencement of the construction of the fine business brick blocks which give Southbridge its prominence, and distinction, and had not a little to do with attracting attention to the business capacity and interest of the town, that led to the completion of the railroad."

This brief sketch of Mr. Edwards sufficiently indicates his rank in the social, business, and political life of the town, and the confidence and respect he enjoyed as a citizen among those who knew him best, but is, after all, deficient in conveying to any but those who knew the detail of his life-work his real worth to the community in which he lived.

His business was conducted with a system and attention to details unexcelled even at the present day. His success as a merchant established his reputation as a man of unusual business capacity. For twenty years he was a director in the Southbridge National Bank and trustee of the Savings Bank. He represented the town in the legislature in 1855. He first introduced gas into the town, putting in the gas works for his own use, afterwards operating them successfully for the town until disposed of to the Mutual Gaslight Company. He purchased land on Main street and improved it by opening and building Everett street. The fine row of horse chestnut trees there were planted under his direction. He built the house now owned by Mrs. Charles V. Carpenter, also the house corner of Main and Everett streets. In public matters he was liberal, public-spirited, and enterprising, and his advice was considered of value. He was an influential member of the Baptist society, and when the meeting house was destroyed by fire in 1863, it was largely through his labors that the present house was built. He contributed both time and money liberally towards its construction and at his decease left to the society and other Baptist institutions a legacy. He was always looking ahead and desired to keep abreast of the times in all things. He had travelled extensively in this country, and was an intelligent observer, most truly a self-made man.

The youngest son of Capt. Jedediah Macey and Ruth Larned was Jedediah, who was born in the Macey house in 1794 and lived his life



there. His early educational advantages were limited and he was never a great lover of books, but inherited great natural abilities. He married Esther Healy of Dudley, Dec. 3, 1816. They had four children. From 1790 to 1818 there were several attempts to establish cotton and woolen mills on the site of the old mills of Moses Marey but all these efforts failed.

In 1818, Jedediah Marey and his father-in-law, Col. Moses Healy, commenced the manufacture of woolen goods. Adolphus Bartholomew, father of A. J. Bartholomew, was superintendent of these mills. They continued this business for two years, then leased the mills for seven years until all attempts to establish a successful business were unavailing. Mr. Marey bought of Col. Healy and the other heirs, their interest, so that he owned the whole of the original Marey property which had been in the family 95 years. In 1827 the first sale of any of the land was made to Deacon Elisha Cole, for \$10,000. Mr. Marey was one of the three men appointed on the building committee on the old town house. He represented the town in the legislature in 1834, '35, and '37. He had all the elements of character for a leader, and there was a time when his judgment and will was equal to a majority vote in town matters. The ridiculous never escaped his detection and it was seldom forgotten. Not a few persons have felt his sarcasm and wit. He was a man of marked individuality. He did his own thinking and reached his own conclusions which, when once reached, were never abandoned. If his ambition had equalled his ability he could have risen to as great eminence as his brother, the governor. He died in May, 1877, and a week later his wife followed him; a month before, their oldest son, Lucian Marey, had died very suddenly. He was a man who was much respected in town and inherited many of the traits of character of his forefathers—independence of thought and sound judgment. He was selectman and repeatedly held the office of assessor. In 1853, he represented the town in the legislature.

The only daughter, Esther Hammond, of Jedediah and Esther Healy Marey, married Israel C. Trow, and their daughter married Hon. A. J. Bartholomew. Mrs. Bartholomew was of the seventh generation, born in the Marey homestead.

William Andrew, the youngest son of Jedediah Marey, was born and has always lived in the old house. His ill health has always made it necessary for him to lead a quiet life, and now, an old man, he sits by this hearthstone where for over 150 years the fire has ever been kept burning. Looking back with a mental vision that has been strengthened by traditions which have been handed down directly from father to son, he takes a great interest in all the improvements going

on in town, and is a most interesting man in conversation. As long as he lives, this historic old home of the Marcys will stand.

There are other men, descendants of John Marcy at Woodstock, to whom an entire paper might be given. Among them are Professor Oliver Marcy of Evanston, Ill., to whom we are indebted for the genealogical record of the family; and Randolph Barnes Marcy, an American general, father-in-law of General McClellan, and a writer of considerable note. Many others might be spoken of, but we will leave them for future generations, trusting their lives and work will be of as great value to this community as have been those of their ancestors.