

REPORT OF THE REUNION

— OF —

JOHN WHITE'S DESCENDANTS

— AT —

SALEM WILLOWS, MASSACHUSETTS,

— ON —

SEPTEMBER 1, 1897.

ARRANGED BY THE SECRETARY.

PRESS OF
CHASE BROTHERS, HAVERHILL, MASS.
1898.



REDEMPTION ROCK.

Reunion.

The reunion of the "Descendants of John White" was held at Salem Willows, Massachusetts, September 1, 1897.

A bountiful dinner was served by the caterer, Mr. James, at the pavilion, after which the meeting was called to order, President, Captain Charles H. White in the chair.

Prayer was offered by Rev. E. B. Fairchild of Stoneham. The Secretary then read the report of the first meeting, held at the American House, Boston, July 30, 1896, which was approved.

The constitution as formed by the committee was read by the President.

On motion of George A. White each article was taken up and acted upon separately. Articles three and six were amended. It was then adopted by the Association.

It was voted that the Secretary be empowered to sign the names on the membership roll of those who wish and are entitled to join the Association.

The following committee was appointed to nominate officers for the coming year :

Mrs. Harriet E. Benedict, Boston, Mass.

Mr. John F. White, Somerville, Mass.

Rev. E. B. Fairchild, Stoneham, Mass.

Mrs. E. B. Fairchild, Stoneham, Mass.

Miss Myra L. White, Haverhill, Mass.

While the committee were out the historical sketch written by Rev. E. H. Rowlandson, Brooklyn, N. Y., was read by Vice President George S. Houghton.

The committee reported the following list as the officers for the ensuing year, and they were unanimously elected :

President, Captain Charles H. White, Ashburnham, Mass.

Vice President, Emory H. White, Lancaster, Mass.

“ George S. Houghton, West Newton, Mass.

“ John B. White, Kansas City, Mo.

“ Lucius A. Warner, Naugatuck, Conn.

Secretary, Miss Myra L. White, Haverhill, Mass.

Treasurer, George A. White, Franklin Park, Mass.

It was voted that the Secretary prepare and supply badges for members who have signed the constitution.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p. m., all expressing satisfaction and a desire to meet again.

Constitution.

ARTICLE I.

This society shall be called THE ASSOCIATION OF JOHN WHITE'S DESCENDANTS.

ARTICLE II.

The object of this Association shall be the holding of reunions, keeping alive a family interest and unitedly paying due respect to our worthy ancestor.

ARTICLE III.

The officers of this Association shall be a President, four Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer. These shall be the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV.

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association, and shall preside at all its meetings.

ARTICLE V.

The Vice Presidents shall discharge the duties of the President during his absence.

ARTICLE VI.

The Secretary shall keep all records of the meetings of the Association, and arrange and preserve all genealogical and other

documents belonging to the Association, and shall have power to choose an assistant.

ARTICLE VII.

The Treasurer shall hold all funds, subject to the order of the Executive Committee, signified to him by the President.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Executive Committee shall control the affairs of the Association, shall have power to fill all vacancies in office, and shall hold office for one year, or until others are chosen in their stead.

ARTICLE IX.

Each member of this Association shall communicate to the Secretary from time to time such particulars as may come to their knowledge relative to the history or genealogy of the family.

ARTICLE X.

Any descendant of John White of Wenham and Lancaster, Massachusetts, may become a member of this Association by signing the Constitution and paying an admission fee of one dollar.

Historical Sketch of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson and One of her Descendants.

COMPILED BY HER GRANDSON IN THE EIGHTH GENERATION,
REV. E. H. ROWLANDSON OF BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Mrs. Rowlandson was a daughter of John White, a hardy pioneer who came from the west of England in 1638 with his wife, Joane, and several children, and settled in that part of Salem which is now Wenham, Massachusetts, remaining there until 1653, when he left his oldest son, Thomas, on his farm in Wenham and moved with his family to Lancaster, being there May 1, 1653, when the town received its name, and receiving the largest allotment of land, because he had the most taxable property of any of the planters.

His daughter, Mary, born in England about 1634, married in Lancaster, 1656, Rev. Joseph, son of Thomas and Bridget Rowlandson of Ipswich and Lancaster, born in England, 1631, graduated from Harvard College, 1652, carrying off all the honors of his class, being the only graduate.

No church building was erected in Lancaster until 1657 or '58, but he was called and became the settled minister in 1660 of the First Church (now the Unitarian) of Lancaster, where he preached until 1676, when the town was burned by the Indians.

The minister's house was a garrison house and stood sixty

rods northeast of the present residence of Nathaniel Thayer, Esq., and the site is marked by a large pine.

On the morning of February 10, 1675 or '76, Rev. Mr. Rowlandson and his brother-in-law, Captain Henry Kerley, were at the Bay (now Boston) to see about having the town better fortified, when about sunrise the Indians came in great numbers and burned and sacked the town. Their main attack was on this garrison house, where forty-two persons had gathered for protection.

Entering the stockade at the rear of the house they fired it with flax and hemp which they brought from the barn.

Then hiding themselves behind anything they could make use of they fired upon those who were driven from the house by the fire, killing some and wounding others.

In the house were Mrs. Rowlandson and her three children, Joseph, aged 13, who was afterward ransomed, her daughter, Mary, aged 10, who was brought away from the Indians by a captive squaw, and Sarah, aged 6, who was wounded by the same ball that wounded her mother, and died in her mother's arms February 18.

Her sister, Elizabeth, wife of Captain Kerley, and her three sons and four daughters, were in the house. The sons were killed or died in captivity, and two of the daughters died without issue before their father's will was written, 1714; Mrs. Kerley was shot as she stepped from the house, and falling back was burned so badly that her husband did not recognize her when he helped to bury the remains of those who had been slaughtered by the fiends.

Mrs. Rowlandson's sister, Hannah, wife of Ensign John Divoll, who was in charge of the garrison, was also there with her four children; her husband was killed, also the two oldest

sons. She and her daughter, Hannah, and son, William, aged three, were redeemed from the Indians or suffered to come back.

After being held captive from February 10 to May 2, and suffering terrible hardships the while, Mrs. Rowlandson was ransomed from the Indians through the effort of Mr. John Hoar of Concord, the ancestor of Hon. George F. Hoar of Worcester, who has bought the land upon which stands "Redemption Rock," where John Hoar feasted the Indians before he made terms with them for Mrs. Rowlandson's liberty. This rock is in Princeton, about twelve miles from Lancaster.

Upon its broad front, facing Wachusett mountain, is the following inscription put there by Senator Hoar :

"Upon this rock May 2, 1676, was made the agreement for the ransom of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson of Lancaster between the Indians and John Hoar of Concord. King Phillip was with the Indians, but refused his consent."

After being redeemed Mrs. Rowlandson wrote a narrative of her travels and sad experience during her captivity, called her "Removes," which she had printed in 1682 by Samuel Green of Cambridge. It has been reprinted to the thirteenth edition. The writer has one printed in 1828.

This book will be reprinted in full in the genealogy of the descendants of John White, now being prepared by Miss Myra L. White of Haverhill, Mass.

Rev. Joseph Rowlandson died in Wethersfield, Conn., November 23, 1678, where he was settled as a minister for a little more than a year.

The Rowlandson family remained in Wethersfield to the fifth generation, but they have ever been a small family, never as far as can be learned having been more than four male members in any one generation bearing the name, yet they did their part in

the struggle for liberty, as we find four of the family on the Revolutionary rolls from Connecticut, two of them being the grandfather and great-grandfather of the writer.

There are now two male members of the eighth generation and one of the ninth who bear the name.

There was one of the eighth generation, my brother, Henry, whose life was somewhat of an eventful one, and I send here a sketch of the prominent scenes particularly as related to some of the stirring events of our national history.

He left home at the age of 20, and under an assumed name enlisted as a marine on board the United States Steamship Vandalia, Commander John Pope, and was only known by his assumed name (Charles F. Elmore) up to the end of his life while in public service and among his associates.

March 5, 1853, the steamer left the port of Philadelphia for China, touching at some 23 foreign ports on the voyage.

August 2 they were joined by the U. S. Steamer Susquehanna, under the command of Commodore M. G. Perry, who had already been to Japan to form a treaty with that secluded nation and delivered a letter from the President of the United States to the Emperor of Japan, and were to go for the answer to said letter in six months.

February 13, 1854, the squadron which the Vandalia joined sailed to Japan for the answer to the President's letter. All rendezvoused at the Bay of Yeddo. The squadron consisted of U. S. Steamers Susquehanna, Lexington, Powhatton, Vandalia, Mississippi and Macedonian.

March 8 a great and imposing landing was made of officers, marines and sailors at Yokohoma to settle all matters in question and add to the pomp and importance of the occasion by a grand display of our forces.

On the 31st the whole business was satisfactorily settled that opened that exclusive nation to the friendship and commerce of the world.

After many exciting adventures in the China seas, such as breaking up nests of pirates in surrounding islands, protecting some ports of the Chinese nation from the inroads and massacres of their own people, visiting the ports along the coast until their term of enlistment ended, so far as the U. S. Ship Vandalia was concerned, and started for home, having been on the cruise three years, seven months and twenty-five days, arriving September 29, having sailed 51,177 miles, twenty persons having died on board the vessel.

April, 1857, Henry enlisted on the U. S. Steamer Niagara, which was then being fitted out by our government to lay the Atlantic cable, to sail in company with the U. S. Steamer Susquehanna and the English Steamers Agamemnon, Leopard and Cyclops ; leaving New York city April 22 for Portsmouth, N. H., to put in the cable machiney and all necessary fittings on board. When completed July 27 they sailed for Valencia Bay to land the shore end. After going back and meeting the other vessels in mid-ocean the cable was spliced ; some two hundred miles of it laid. Four hundred messages were sent through it. August 6 the cable ceased to work ; it had parted and all was over ; the expedition was a failure ; nothing else to do but return home. December 1 the Niagara went out of commission and crew discharged.

February, 1858, Henry again joined the ship's company of the Niagara to take part in laying the Atlantic cable the second time. The vessel on the American side was the Niagara, Captain Hudson ; on the English side Steamers Agamemnon, Valorous, Porcupine and Gorgon. The Niagara left New York city

March 9. The vessels met in mid-ocean July 25 and spliced the ends of the cable. August 5 the shore end was safely landed at Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, and the cable working all right proved that the expedition was a success.

It is well to state here that Henry was detailed to act as the amanuensis of Mr. Cyrus W. Field, and that all the documents relating to cable matters in way of correspondence were written by my brother.

August 11 the Niagara started for home, arriving the 23d, was put out of commission and crew discharged.

September 10 he again left Brooklyn navy yard on the Niagara, Captain John S. Chauncy. This time the purpose of the cruise was an errand of mercy that any government might be proud of, to take from Charleston, S. C., a large number of Africans rescued from the slave ship Echo by U. S. Steamer Dolphin and return the poor creatures to their own native land. Arrived at Charleston September 21 and took on board 228 males, 41 females, adults, and two small children, 271 in all. Seventy-one died on the voyage of 51 days. Having landed the Africans in care of Mr. H. W. Dennis, agent of the American Colonization Society, they started for home November 17, and arriving in New York the vessel was put out of commission and the crew transferred to the Steamer North Carolina.

Henry joined the U. S. Steamer Brooklyn, Captain David G. Farragut, with the rank of master's mate, leaving New York harbor February 2, 1859. The object of this cruise was to ascertain the feasibility of establishing a coaling station for steam vessels at Port Royal, S. C. They stopped on the way at Port au Prince, Aux Cays, Porto Bello and Vera Cruz. Also they were if possible to form a new treaty with the Mexican government, then under the sway of the Juarez faction. United States

Commissioner McLean was on board the Brooklyn to negotiate for the United States. November 14 the treaty was signed and forwarded to Washington per Mail Steamer Tennessee.

On the 19th the Brooklyn sailed for home, arriving at quarantine February 21, 1860, but returned again with the commissioner to Vera Cruz, March 15. While there learned, July 10, that Congress had rejected the treaty. All then started home, landing at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, August 1, and that cruise ended.

Henry rejoined his old ship, Vandalia, Captain S. P. Lee. The purpose of this expedition was to reinforce the East India squadron. December 1 left New York and sailed to Porte Grande, Island of St. Vincent, and the Cape Verde group, thence to Cape Town, Africa, arriving February 27, 1861, having sailed 3,382 miles. In May the news reached them of the war between the North and South, and immediately turned homeward, arriving at the United States May 18. Many of the officers and crew resigned from the ship, among whom was Henry.

He then went on board the U. S. Steamer Alabama, Captain E. Lanier, taking the position of paymaster's clerk. The object in view was to join the North Atlantic blockading squadron and to blockade the entire hostile sea coast. Leaving New York October 16 in company with U. S. Steamers Wabash, Augusta, Attawa, Florida, Seneca and Unadilla. While anchored off the Battery the oath of allegiance was administered to all the officers and crew of the squadron.

October 28, near Charleston, overhauled many strange vessels; November 4, captured Port Royal; November 25, captured a prize vessel; December, captured and set fire to a schooner loaded with coffee; December 11, captured the British

Ship Admiral and anchored her off Port Royal, though she was afterwards released; blockading Charleston harbor, March 12, 1862, captured Fernandina; March 25, captured an English steamer, a blockade runner, and destroyed the blockade runner Steamer Catawba, that run aground in Beach Inlet; September 23, captured the Schooner Nellie; she was sent to New York and sold. Ordered home, October 9, reached Boston and the cruise ended.

Henry again joined the Alabama as paymaster's clerk. The object of this cruise was to sail among the West India Islands. She was commanded by Captain E. T. Nichols. After some accidents and sundry delays she got fully underway January 1, 1863. Recaptured the Brig J. P. Elliott from the Retribution, which was in turn taken captive. February 20 captured the Steamer Peterhoff.

Pursuing the cruise they passed by the Islands of Orchilla, Blanquilla, El Roque, Buen Ayre, Curacoa, Trinidad, Martinique, Basse Tene, St. Kitts, Santa Cruz, Sombrero, Porto Rico, Antiqua, St. Eustatius, St. Bartholomew, St. Martin, St. Domingo and Havana. July 19 a case of yellow fever was discovered on board and it began at once to spread with fatal effects. Some twenty of the officers and crew died. July 27 ordered back to Boston in haste. August 2 arrived at Staten Island quarantine. August 4 officers and crew were transferred to the Steamer Magnolia, being furnished with new clothes, etc. They were obliged to leave all other things behind. Here Henry was obliged to leave and lose many valuable curiosities and other articles of value collected from different parts of the world. The Alabama was towed to Portsmouth, N. H., and on the 26th the officers were detached from the ship and the cruise ended.

Henry was appointed to the U. S. Steamer Rhode Island, Admiral J. C. Lardner, taking the rank of master's mate. This steamer was to be a part of the West India squadron. He with others of the crew and officers were sent by the Aspinwall steamer to go on board the Rhode Island at St. Domingo, and did so October 12. Thereupon the steamer Rhode Island sailed at once in search of suspicious rebel vessels. After touching at St. Thomas, Cape Haytien, Nevassa and other islands, up to March, 1864, then needing repairs the Rhode Island was ordered home; leaving St. Thomas March 19, reached Boston March 28.

He joined the Alabama for the third time, ranking as master's mate. The vessel was to join the North Atlantic blockading squadron, under the command of Admirals Lee and Porter. The vessels that made up the fleet were the Ticonderoga, Shenandoah, Tuscarora, Juniata, Powhatton, Wabash, Colorado, Minnesota, New Ironsides, Brooklyn, Alabama, Emma, A. D. Vance, Cherokee, Tristram Shandy, Malvern Vanderbilt, Mohican and Mohopias, leaving Brooklyn Navy Yard May 10. September 24 the Lynch and Hawk, blockade runners, were destroyed. October 31 captured the blockade runner Annie. December 25 bombarded Fort Fisher without success. Siege was abandoned on the 27th. January 14, 1865, the bombardment of Fort Fisher was renewed and the next day the fort was successfully taken by the Union forces, with a loss of twelve officers and one hundred and seven men; forty-five officers and four hundred and ninety men were wounded. After the battle the Alabama cruised up and down the coast. February 18 returned to Beaufort, S. C. March 3 Petersburg was taken. March 10 Lee and his forces surrendered and then the Alabama started homeward. July 13 arrived at Philadelphia and soon after went out of commission.

After the taking of Fort Fisher by Union forces Henry was sent with the boats under his command to find and take up torpedoes in the James River and other streams near the fort. The weather being extremely cold, as he afterward said, he was nearly frozen to death. This exposure and other hardships fastened upon his system inflammatory rheumatism of so violent a nature that he had to be sent to the United States Hospital at Boston for medical treatment, being there for six months or more, much of the time being obliged to be lifted in and out of his bed by four of the attendants.

While in the hospital as an invalid he formed the acquaintance of Mrs. Mary A. Page. When he became well enough to travel she came with him to New York, where they were married April, 1866. He eventually recovered his health to a certain extent, though the effects of the hardships he had passed through remained in his system, and finally resulted in kidney disease and other weakness. He died at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Bath, N. Y., February 20, 1886, where he held the office of pension clerk.

During all these eleven years' adventures he kept a full and interesting account of the same, beautifully written in his own fine penmanship, and embellished them with maps and pictures, hand drawn and painted, of what he saw during these voyages. These books are in possession of the writer and much cherished as a sort of family memento of what at least one Rowlandson could and did do.

Members of the Family Present.

Captain Charles H. White, Ashburnham, Mass.
Mrs. Charles H. White, Ashburnham, Mass.
Miss Annie C. White, Ashburnham, Mass.
Miss Margaret C. White, Ashburnham, Mass.
Mr. William Fred White, Ashburnham, Mass.
Mrs. William Fred White, Ashburnham, Mass.
Mr. Emory H. White, Lancaster, Mass.
Mr. George S. Houghton, West Newton, Mass.
Mrs. George S. Houghton, West Newton, Mass.
Mr. George A. White, Franklin Park, Mass.
Mrs. George A. White, Franklin Park, Mass.
Dr. L. L. Pollock, East Weymouth, Mass.
Mrs. Wealthy I. Pollock, East Weymouth, Mass.
Mrs. Wilhelmine W. Darling, East Weymouth, Mass.
Mrs. Abby A. Winslow, Somerville, Mass.
Miss Ruth A. White, Somerville, Mass.
Mr. John F. White, Somerville, Mass.
Rev. E. B. Fairchild, Stoneham, Mass.
Mrs. Maria H. Fairchild, Stoneham, Mass.
Mrs. Margretta E. Beatty, Cambridgeport, Mass.
Mrs. Mary E. Beatty, Cambridgeport, Mass.
Mrs. Hettie Elliott, Peabody, Mass.
Mrs. L. F. Symonds, Salem, Mass.
Mrs. Albert F. Conant, Salem, Mass.

Mr. Joseph H. White, Boston, Mass.
Mr. Elbert C. White, Boston, Mass.
Mr. John H. White, Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Washington G. Benedict, Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Frances J. Grout, Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Charles S. Johnson, Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Hannah C. Coates, Boston, Mass.
Miss Maude E. Coates, Boston, Mass.
Mr. Edwin L. Moore, Winthrop, Mass.
Mrs. Edwin L. Moore, Winthrop, Mass.
Miss Mira E. Pierce, Winchester, Mass.
Mrs. Elsie S. Pratt, Winchester, Mass.
Mr. Darwin C. Coates, Cliftondale, Mass.
Mrs. Darwin C. Coates, Cliftondale, Mass.
Mrs. Charles Gay, Leominster, Mass.
Mr. Edmund G. Davis, Leominster, Mass.
Mrs. James V. Godfrey, Allston, Mass.
Mrs. Imogene (Crosby) Geer, Waltham, Mass.
Mrs. Sarah (Crosby) Evans, Marlboro, Mass.
Mr. Robert Henderson, Marlboro, Mass.
Mrs. Robert Henderson, Marlboro, Mass.
Mrs. D. C. Haseltine, South Braintree, Mass.
Mrs. Thomas D. Hapgood, Hudson, Mass.
Mrs. J. H. Cummings, Hudson, Mass.
Mrs. Pauline (Booth) Scott, Montague, Mass.
Miss Nancy J. Booth, Griswoldville, Mass.
Mr. Sherburne K. White, Georgetown, Mass.
Mrs. Sherburne K. White, Georgetown, Mass.
Mr. Justin F. White, Georgetown, Mass.
Mrs. Justin F. White, Georgetown, Mass.
Mrs. Alfarata D. Adams, Georgetown, Mass.

Mrs. Priscilla Reed, Georgetown, Mass.
Mrs. Frank Burke, Rowley, Mass.
Mrs. Mabel Saunders, Rowley, Mass.
Mrs. Sophia A. Carlton, Rowley, Mass.
Miss Betsie P. Dodge, Rowley, Mass.
Miss Faith H. Carlton, Rowley, Mass.
Mr. Frank S. Leavitt, Lynn, Mass.
Mr. John B. Kenison, Lynn, Mass.
Mrs. John B. Kenison, Lynn, Mass.
Mrs. Annie L. Boothby, Lynn, Mass.
Mrs. Carrie L. Stocker, Lynn, Mass.
Mrs. Emma F. Dunbar, Canton, Mass.
Miss Emily Ruggles, Reading, Mass.
Miss Abbie A. White, Worcester, Mass.
Mr. Alden B. Knight, Worcester, Mass.
Mr. D. Edward Miller, Springfield, Mass.
Mrs. James H. Davidson, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Edwin P. Chapman, Oneida, N. Y.
Mrs. Emma D. Townsend, Kalamazoo, Mich.
Mr. James M. W. Townsend, Kalamazoo, Mich.
Mr. William Winchester Hubbard, Manchester, N. H.
Miss Martha W. Hubbard, Manchester, N. H.
Miss Laura E. Leavitt, Portsmouth, N. H.
Mrs. Henry H. White, Londonderry, N. H.
Mrs. John White, Litchfield, N. H.
Mrs. Susan White Chase, Litchfield, N. H.
Mrs. S. Grace Saunders, Litchfield, N. H.
Mr. N. C. Griffin, Litchfield, N. H.
Mrs. N. C. Griffin, Litchfield, N. H.
Arthur G. Griffin, M. D., Malden, Mass.
Mrs. Willard N. Griffin, Gloucester, Mass.

Mrs. Lizzie White Clement, South Framingham, Mass.

Mrs. Grace O. Downing, Haverhill, Mass.

Miss Myra L. White, Haverhill, Mass.

Invited Guests Present.

Mrs. Clara A. Carter, Leominster, Mass.

Mrs. Sarah P. Farnham, Peabody, Mass.

Mrs. Lizzie R. Merrill, Haverhill, Mass.

Miss Mary White, Reading, Mass.

Mr. Henry White, Beverly, Mass.