



DODGE FAMILY JOURNAL

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The Dodge Homestead, A Personal History

by Donald Nichols Ross and Marie Dodge Ross

Reprinted from the 1975 issue of the Cow Neck Peninsula Historical journal

News from England

Those of you who have met Ray Preston, either on one of our tours to England where he joined us for the Stockport part of the Tour, or on one of the trips he and Muriel made to our country, you might be interested in knowing that Ray had cataract surgery during which, his eye hemorrhaged and this resulted in great loss of vision. He could not even drive. He has now had laser surgery which did nothing for one eye but restored perfect vision to the other eye. He is once more able to drive.

Those of you who have joined us on our tours, have met Mike and Julie Wilson, the caretakers of Halliday Hill House in Offerton, Stockport. We have just recently learned that Mike is suffering from prostrate cancer. If you would like to send a card of encouragement to Ray

(Continued on page 2)

In the autumn of 1776 Thomas Dodge was loading his shallop¹, "The Sarah" (His wife's maiden name was Sarah Onderdonk), with farm produce, smoked pork and flour from Mott's Mill. He was preparing for his regular sail to the New York market. His quay² extended into Dodge Inlet at the north end of Cow Bay opposite his home and farm. At that end the water in the 18th century was five feet deep.

His father Thomas had built the house in 1721 and during the following years had added a large dining room, a kitchen and a weaving room. The farm was a strip about a quarter of a mile wide, extending from the farmhouse and outbuildings on Cow Bay to Hempstead Bay on the east side of Cow Neck.

The loading continued all day and into the night so they could get underway at high tide the

next morning. The work was done by a few hired hands who doubled as crew. Food and grog were also stowed since it was a two day trip down through Hell Gate and back. Water was obtained from an old Indian spring at the foot of the quay. Large glass and reed jugs were filled with the spring water used in the Homestead and had to be carried in wooden buckets across the road and up a hill to the house.

"The Sarah" weighed anchor at dawn, with a good breeze, north by east, which was favorable. They sailed before the wind out of the Inlet and tacked out of the Bay to Long Island Sound. On a long reach past Great Neck they began to relax; the crew lolling on deck, Skipper Dodge busy in his cabin. Suddenly the look-out cried

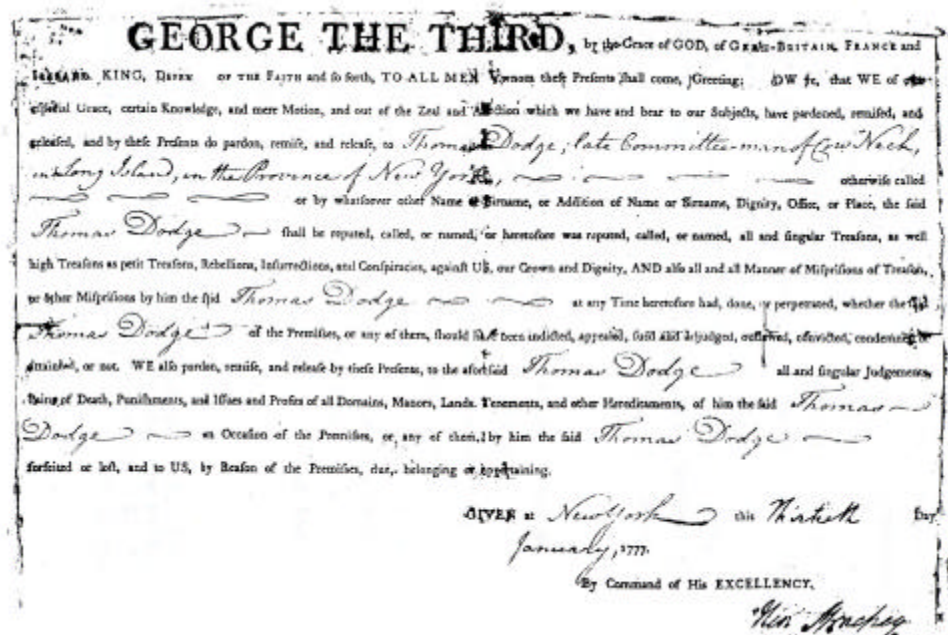
"British frigate a port!" The danger that their cargo would be confiscated was eminent. This was the only way the British could supply their fleet far from home waters.

Captain Dodge consulted with his Mate. He decided that they could not prevent a boarding since they were unarmed and were no match for trained sailors. Captain Dodge had a plan. The Mate would invite the British Commanding Officer to come aboard for a powwow with him in his cabin. As the frigate hove alongside and made fast, the Mate extended his Captain's invitation. There stood Captain Dodge with a large, brown bottle of gin³ which he had opened for the occasion.

The British officer sipped his gin as Captain Dodge explained that he was loyal to

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DODGE FAMILY JOURNAL

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(Dodge Homestead - Continued from page 1)

the Crown. He had proven his loyalty by quartering a detachment of twelve British Hessian mercenaries in his weaving-room and their officer in his home all winter. Furthermore, he had a document from His Excellency, King George the Third, and signed by his agent, William S. Mackey, which would attest to the same. They toasted the Crown, followed by more discussions and more toasts until the brown bottle of gin was empty. At this point the Officer and Captain Dodge emerged from the cabin arm in arm. The Sarah's cargo had been saved.⁴

Seven generations of Dodges have lived in the Dodge Homestead which still stands in the same location on Dodge's Inlet, now the Mill Pond. In 1795 Caleb Cornell built his grist mill at the head of the Inlet and dammed it to form a tidewater mill pond. No road was built over the dam until late in the 19th century. Until then wagons had to go over Pleasant Avenue or around the pond.

¹a shallop: a 17th century name for a small sailboat (sloop). Small cargo boats were called packets in the 1850's.

³Thomas Mott gave Thomas Dodge a case of Holland gin for storing several cases of gun powder in the loft over the weaving-room where the British soldiers were quartered. One empty bottle still remains in the Homestead. Thomas Mott was a staunch patriot of the Revolution

⁴The foregoing tale is based on fact. The empty bottle and a forgotten red coat are relics saved from that event of the Revolution. A photograph of the document signed by King George is included in this article.

DO YOU KNOW? Tristram Dodge of Block Island once owned Nomans Island which is located off the southeastern coast of New England, six miles south of Gay Head which figured predominantly in the search last year for John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s plane. There is a website where interesting information about this Island and the use of it by our Navy as a firing range starting in the 1940s. <http://www.cpeo.org/lists/military/1998/msg00311.html>

The above information was sent to us by Val Pierce who is a descendent of Tristram through his son John, John, John, Deadmia Diadamus m. Henry Farrant in Hardin County, KY. Val is not an Association member but if you would like to contact her, the e-mail address is: valpierce23@hotmail.com

Meet Our Members



Recently, we had the very great pleasure of having Dale and Ann Dodge Hooper visit our home and Dodge office here in Lakewood, CO. Dale is a retired physician and Ann is a retired pathologist. However, they have not really retired. They do a lot of traveling around the country as they are both involved in music. Ann plays both the Violin and the Viola and Dale sings. Their next stop was going to be at an Elderhostle at Pingree Park, a mountain town north of Estes Park, where Dale was going to participate in a musical program "Gilbert and Sullivan Favorites" and where Ann would be participating in playing Chamber Music. Earlier this year, they were in Madagascar where Ann spoke on pathology and Dale helped with the medical needs. Ann's stories of various autopsies she has performed are fascinating.

Ann's sister, Mary Cobb of Plymouth, MA is also Association member, and she also plays the Violin and Viola, and her husband, David, plays the bass violin. They travel up and down the eastern seaboard filling in where needed in symphony orchestras.

Ann, Mary and their mother Bertha Sanford Dodge, noted author, joined us on our very first England tour back in 1990. Bertha has since passed away. Ann and Dale joined us on our last England tour.

When they visited us recently, they brought with them, Dale's brother and sister-in-law, Gerald and Marilyn Hooper who live a hop, skip, and jump away from us in Golden, CO.

(Continued from page 1)

and Muriel and to Mike and Julie, their addresses are listed below.

All four of them do such a wonderful job of making us feel at home when we arrive in Stockport, and Mike and Julie have our group for tea if we are there on a Sunday.

Ray and Muriel Preston
25, The Fairway
Offerton, Stockport
SK25DU Great Britain

Mike and Julie Wilson
Halliday Lane
Offerton, Stockport
Great Britain
e-mail: wilson-mike@netlineuk.net

Craig Dodge, our correspondent from Australia, is finally being treated with interferon for his MS. It was rough at first but he is doing better now. Craig is responsible for our WORLD Dodge data base. This includes all continents outside the North American Continent. Therefore, he has a new e-mail address: craigdodge@dodgefamily.org

In the last Journal, we listed a number of people who are willing to help us look for specific genealogy. That was by no means everyone. We add the names of: Janeen Peters, IN; Nattalie Bradley, AK; Jim Breeden, NY; Martha Johnstone, NY; Lew Dodge, ME

 *Barbara's
Byline*

From out of the past, they came alive . . . those ancestors gone on so long ago. Hon. Augustus C. Dodge, son of Henry Dodge, first Governor of the Territory of Wisconsin; Maj. Grenville Dodge, that great general who was in charge of the complete construction of the Union Pacific Railroad; Rev. Ebenezer Dodge who was the president of Madison College, Robert Dodge who wrote the very first Tristram Genealogy, Lieut. Col. Richard Irving Dodge, William E. Dodge, that great philanthropist, Theodore A. Dodge, another great military man and author; Maj. Ben Perley Poore, the well known journalist . . . their words jump from the pages and come alive as I look through the book, "Report of the 1st memorable reunion of the Dodge Family in America by Robert Dodge, 1879.

So many names that are now written in the pages of history once belonged to our ancestors who lived, worked, and struggled in their daily lives to keep this county growing into the great nation it has become today.

I was going through my piles of papers and books in an effort to make the piles more organized and I could not help but stop in my efforts when I picked up the above mentioned book.

To hold a reunion in New England and get the message out across the wide expanses of this country in a day when there was not the speed of communication or of conveyance that we have today was a remarkable feat in itself. To have so many people attend that reunion was another amazing accomplishment.

Many were there who are not well known to us today but were just as important for they also were the progenitors of those of us who today call ourselves 'Dodge'.

Rueben Rawson Dodge, Christopher Gore Dodge, Edmund Stedman grandson of David Low Dodge, Rebecca W. (Dodge) Sire of St. Louis, MO, William J. Dodge of Searsport,

ME, Lewis Dodge of Grafton, MA, Arthur Dodge of Nova Scotia, Horace Dodge Ranlett of Oakland, CA, and so many more.

The words of these ancestors from the distant past, are always with me as I sit at my desk each day. Everytime I grab one of our genealogy books in order to look up some information, I also can't help but read some of the biographical information on other Dodes from which we have sprung and in many cases, their own words in the form of letters sent so many years ago to family members and friends.

Starting with this issue of our Journal there will be, on our genealogy page, a small section in which will be published some of these voices from the past. If you have any of these "voices" that you would like to see published there, please send them to me at the address on the top of page two of this journal. It is important for those who follow us to understand in some part, those from whom they have descended, for THAT blood runs in their veins also. Barbara

So many of you have e-mailed me asking "WHAT HAPPENED?" regarding the office change while Earl was gone. Well

Two days after Earl got home from his trip he told me he liked it. I guess it must have been a shock!



The 2nd of the two cards advertising E.P. Dodge General Store, Hamilton, MA

OUT OF GLOUCESTER

There is a wonderful web site: www.downtosea.com. The page title is OUT OF GLOUCESTER. There will be a dedication of a Fishermen's Memorial Cenotaph on Sept. 3, 2000. This memorial will include only **fishermen** who sailed out of Gloucester.

Israel Dodge who sailed on The Schooner Walter Scott, which was lost in April, 1850, with eight men will be one of the names on this memorial. If you know of an ancestor who sailed as a fisherman out of Gloucester, you may have their name included on this memorial. The memorial will be located between the famous Gloucester landmark, *Fisherman at the Wheel* and the harbor around the existing overlook that is part of the seaside promenade; the memorial will be comprised of a semi-circle of granite blocks and bronze tablets.

If you have internet access and ancestors who came from New England, you might want to browse to this web site. There are some wonderful old pictures and if you like sailing ships, or old towns, or fishing, or viewing photos of old sea captains . . . well . . . this site is for you. Below is a small rendering of what the site will look like when finished.



Passwords for members only area of our Web Site are:

User Name: essex
Password: oldplanters

To acquire an updated copy of the Dodge Roster, go to the internet and browse to: <http://c575204-a.whtrdgl.co.home.com/ftp/> Look at the dates in order to get the latest roster. There are monthly updates of new members only, and there is always a FULL Dodge Roster containing everyone in our data base. Only our members are able to access this.

From the Pen of: Passepartout by Craig Dodge



craigdodge@dodgefamily.org

Someone once said that history is written by the victors.

That is true, but it is also written by you and me. The recording of your family's genealogy and history is part of that process.

I was born in Zambia in central Africa in 1966. In 1973 my family moved to Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) where I lived for the next 21 years.

Rhodesia was ruled by a small white minority, and in the late 1970's went through a civil war as the black population fought for their rights. In 1980 they won those rights and Zimbabwe came into being.

In about 1984, I began to reach the age when I was able to separate fact from propaganda and came to realise that much of what I had been led to believe was not the whole story. Extending that realisation it was obvious that what I was being presented with in 1984 wasn't the whole story either. Nonetheless, I found myself defending the efforts of the fledgling government to my friends and family.

In what must have been about 1990, I began to realise that the government was indefensible, they clearly cared only for themselves and feathering their own nest at the expense of the man in the street and I became a critic of the Mugabe regime. This reached the point where in 1995, I felt that Zimbabwe was no longer a place wherein I could raise a family and felt it essential to seek a better life.

Thus in 1996 we moved to England intending to move elsewhere as events permitted. We were there longer than intended and it was only when I got sick that we received the impetus we needed to move on.

Not surprisingly we had been wrestling with our decision to leave Zimbabwe and so we had kept a close eye on events in the region. As we watched the developments I became more and more convinced of the rightness of our decision, and found myself

urging my friends and family to get out sooner rather than later. It was a strange, ironic, reversal as the same people against whom I had defended the government a few years previously were now the ones defending it and arguing passionately that all would be well.

Our decision to move to Australia was made in 1999 and we felt that it would be prudent to travel to Australia via Zimbabwe to see our friends and family as we did not know when we get the opportunity again. This was a difficult decision to make as we were not convinced of the degree of safety that we would enjoy.

Nonetheless we did do it, and were fortunate to experience nothing worse than fuel and foreign currency shortages, though it was obvious that the situation was growing ever more tense. Two months ago we settled in Perth, Australia.

I am sorry to say that my fears regarding Zimbabwe have, so far, been borne out and Zimbabwe is simmering on the brink of mass violence. My Australian readers will have seen the disturbing nightly news reports of a country being torn apart by the greed of its leaders. Just 2 months ago I walked on the streets on which the violence that has broken out is now occurring. With the death toll rising there is no satisfactory end in sight.

The corruption of Zimbabwe's president, Robert Mugabe, has destroyed the country's economy and disaffected the populace. He is hugely unpopular, yet like so many third world leaders, he clings to power, doing everything he can to hang on. One of his ploys is to blame the remaining whites and the farmers in particular for the country's economic woes. He has actively encouraged the illegal occupation of farms, ignoring orders from the High Court to prevent them.

In the midst of it, a small family of Dodges.

When I was young, those who owned, or had relatives who owned farms were the envy of those of us who didn't. They spent the school holidays enjoying the freedom that that gave them, while the rest of us

passed time in the city. Now in another reversal we are the lucky ones.

So what role have Dodges played in the crisis? In essence, we are eyewitnesses, watching history unfold. Caught in the middle. But more than just witnesses we are now also chroniclers, recording and passing on the story of this convulsive continent.

Don't think that just because nothing you have done has been written about or featured on Sixty Minutes, that you are second fiddle to those pioneers who landed on unknown continents all those years ago.


What you are experiencing is history in the making; watch it, observe it, record it, and pass it on.

I Spy

HALLIDAY HILL
FARM

WHERE IS IT?
Offerton,
Stockport

WHAT'S THE STORY?
Standing on a hillside between Stockport and Marple, the picturesque stone farm cottage was the home of the Dodge family between 1437 and 1841. In 1633, two Dodge brothers sailed for America where they founded Dodge City. Their descendants founded the Dodge Brothers Motor company, famous for its pick-up trucks. The cottage has its own fresh water supply thanks to an ancient spring in the grounds. The building was threatened with demolition in 1987 by controversial plans for a new motorway. But Dodge family members from America joined a public protest and an inquiry ruled the route be moved 50 miles north to avoid the building. Since then groups of American Dodges have made regular pilgrimages to the cottage. The next will arrive in 2001.



The above clipping from the Stockport newspaper, was sent to us by Ray Preston of Stockport, England. There are several errors in the text, but we thought you would enjoy seeing this anyhow.

Earl's Pearls

Ray Preston wrote to tell us that Halloway Hill was one of ten historical sites chosen by the people of Stockport to receive a Blue Plaque under the Stockport Millennium program. Over 100 sites were considered in the voting.

Mention of this, and the column on page 1 about news from England, reminds me that we are aiming for May, 2002 for our next Dodge Family Tour to England. Let us know if you have an interest in possibly going with us.

In going through some books in my office I found a Prohibition pamphlet or ballot which listed a George Dodge as a candidate for Governor. Research in the JTD book revealed his identity and the fact that he ran in New Hampshire in 1880. His interesting life is sketched on pages 392-393 of that book.

My great grandfather Issachar Dodge helped to organize the Free Soil party in Massachusetts and my maternal great grandfather Gilbert Harris enlisted in the Union Army. Most Dodges lived in the North and supported the Union. There were, however, southern Dodges who supported the Confederacy and its position on states' rights.

It is sad today that some pressure groups are vilifying the South and its symbols. There were many noble men such as Robert E. Lee who fought valiantly to defend their state and their homes. The so-called politically-correct thought police never mention that slavery was practiced in black Africa for centuries before it was imported to America. In fact it is still practiced in some African nations today.

These folks have also turned Washington, Jefferson and other Founding Fathers into whipping boys. We no longer even honor Washington and Lincoln on their birthdays. That honor is reserved only for M.L. King. Presidents' Day and the Fourth of July receive less attention than CincoDeMayo.

No human beings are perfect and thus no nation is perfect either. Yet, every day I am thankful both for my Dodge heritage and the fact that I am an American. Millions of people are not trying to move to Mexico, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia or any other num-

ber of nations we could name. They ARE trying to come to America (and I DO believe in strong protection for our borders), some for economic benefits and some for freedom. Our ancestors came for both.

With all the faults we could name in America today, and there are many, it is still the land of the free and the home of the brave. We have freedom of speech and worship, and the opportunity to live and work where we wish and to enjoy the fruits of our labor. On July 4th let us think again of what God and our ancestors did for us in carving a new nation out of the wilderness.

On July 2, I am singing "God Bless America" at our morning church service.

God Bless America, land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her through
the night with a light from above.

From the mountains to the prairies, to
the oceans white with foam, God bless
America my home sweet home.



Old fishing fleet, Gloucester, MA

The following article was written by Grace Dodge Van Nalts who is 87 years young and indeed she is young at heart. Grace and her sister-in-law, Bernice Dodge accompanied us on the 1996 England Tour, and Grace joined us for the 1999 Tour. She kept up with the best of us and was all set to climb all the steps of Blarney Castle but at the last minute thought that perhaps it was not the best idea.

"Last Aug.'99 while I was at my summer home in the N.Y. Catskills, my cousin Bernice Dodge from Tustin, CA telephoned me. She was excited about a South American cruise on the ROYAL PRINCESS that would be Feb. 1-15, 2000. Would I go with her? She would sign us up with her travel agent. How could I refuse?"

Now jump to Jan.31 2000, when we boarded a plane at LAX to Dallas, TX and an overnight plane to Santiago, Chile. Arriving the morning of Feb.1

we found our luggage and boarded a bus that took us 65 miles to Valparaiso and our ship. We located our stateroom, and headed for the dining room. Sail was set a little after 6P.M.

The first explorers in Chile were the Portuguese. Magellan named the ocean "PACIFIC" which means peaceful. About two centuries ago, Germans migrated to Chile. Now lots of fruits and wines are exported. The national drink is a Pisco Sour made of grapes and lemon or lime. Our dollar bills were accepted all over Chile and Argentina.

We sailed down the coast and ventured into rough seas for several days. It was hard to keep our balance! Outside on the decks it was windy and cold; mostly in the 40's & 50's . . . and this is their summer!

We entered fiords all day on Feb 5th. There was stunning mountain scenery, some capped with snow. This led us to a magnificent glacier, 2 miles across. We exchanged borders from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean, where we rounded Cape Horn into Argentina. The rough seas expected never materialized. What a surprise!

We then headed for the Falkland Islands, discovered by a British sailor in 1592, and thus became property of the U.K. In 1982 Argentina waged war against the Falklanders to own these islands. The then Prime Minister of Great Britain stopped the war and saved the islands for the Falklanders. Today, friendly feelings have resumed between the two nations.

On Feb. 14, the ship docked in Montevideo, Uruguay. What a long, long coastline of beaches! It is a very beautiful sight, with magnificent homes along that coast. Our cruise was coming to an end with a day in Buenos Aires. What a fabulous city of 3.5 million people living in thousands of apartment dwellings.

Bernice and I took 7 excursions from the ship. We saw quite a bit of the country itself. Our cruise had taken us just short of 5,000 miles down the coast of Chile from Valparaiso, around Cape Horn and up the Atlantic Coast of Argentina to Buenos Aires."



GENEALOGICAL HELP

Cyrus Brown Dodge m. **Eliza Susan Crane**. Their children were: **Emerson Francis Dodge**, born July 4, 1847 in Belchertown, MA d. April 18, 1945 in Nooksack, WA m. **Lydia Fost**, born Nov. 30, 1849 in Ohio, married Nov. 28, 1869. **Lydia** died in Minneapolis, Minn. Other children of **Cyrus and Eliza** were **Elmer E. Dodge, Herbert Dodge** and **C. Albion Dodge** who died on Oct. 1, 1886. **C. Albion's** obit is posted on our website. Any information no matter how small would be greatly appreciated. Contact: Dottiefetter@cs.com

Albert A. Dodge, II m. **Evalyne Locke** recorded in Book 4, pg. 50 Jasper county, Remington, IN. In the 1830 Census he was living in Scioto County, OH. He was between 20 and 30 years old. **Albert A. Dodge, II** has possible connections with Vermont. Contact: suelter@home.com

ON the birth certificate for **Hannah Dodge** born March 17, 1803 on Block Island, RI, it lists a **George** and an **Abi-**



Do YOU have this precious little guy as YOUR ancestor? His name is Gerald Albright Dodge. ON the left, he is 4 months old and 10 lbs; on the right, he is 10 months.

These pictures were sent to us by Arreta Early of NY who wrote: "I looked at your association page and found it quite interesting. I was hoping to find Gerald Albright Dodge, but no luck. In any event I am attaching copies of the pictures I have and will be happy to send them to you - that may be the best chance of re-uniting them with someone who will value them. One has the name of a photography studio in Jersey City, NJ. I feel quite sure that the parents of Gerald were in the vicinity of Delaware County, New York at the time of his birth, because the pictures were in the effects of Lillian Pomeroy, a popular midwife of this area in the early 1900's."

gail as her parents. If you can help, contact: jorgensonlv@prodigy.net

We have a lot of mystery **Dodge genealogy** on our **Web site**. If you have internet access, we would appreciate any help you can give in trying to find records, dates, etc. for any of these lost lines. We have been able to help a couple more people with their Dodge lines since the last Journal. We would LOVE to see some of these mysteries put into the SOLVED corner. Contact the Dodge Family Association.

Kernels from the Colonel

Morning Prayer:

Dear Lord, So far today, Lord, I've done all right, I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, or overindulgent.

I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed. And from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot of help. AMEN

Voices from the Past

Part of the address given by Rueben Rawson Dodge of Willkinsonville, Massachusetts, taken from the book "Report of the 1st memorable reunion of the Dodge Family in America by Robert Dodge, 1879.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Kinsmen:

It has been thirty years since I began to study and collect the records of the Dodge family, with a desire of obtaining an authentic genealogical history of the names of those who had distinguished themselves within the past 250 years, since our first ancestor landed at the City of Salem. To-day, I seem to be standing on sacred ground, where my remote ancestors lived, wept, prayed and died.

The many fields and brooks I loved to wander among, turn me back to the time since ten generations have passed away, and to-day we have returned to commemorate their history - one of the oldest New England families.

Not a few of its members have been brilliant. I feel proud to be able to

point out a few who are now present in this Hall, viz.: to Senator Augustus C. Dodge, a son of Gen. Henry Dodge, late Senator in Congress from Iowa, and for many years had a seat side by side with his distinguished father: who was also several years Minister to Spain, and whose public life has been well-known for the past quarter of a century, as the founder of Iowa and Wisconsin.

To Gen'l Grenville M. Dodge, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, the gallant soldier, and well-known in many fields of battle during the late rebellion, a native of Danvers, in this County of Essex.

To Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Dodge, the President of Madison College, Hamilton, N. Y., so well and long known, a native of Essex County.

To Major Ben. Perley Poore, the well-known Washington correspondent

of some of our most popular New England journals (or newspapers); and finally to our honored presiding officer at this meeting, the Hon. Wm. E. Dodge, so long and favorably known as one connected with every benevolent object, who has made our name one of which we should have a just pride.

I repeat: To-day, we have of this generation, with us in this Hall, a few of the name who have made their mark in the world.

What should we say of the many, who were more or less distinguished through every generation?

To-day, let us make it a special object to have collected, if possible, and put into permanent book form, the genealogical and biographical history of our family name.