
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

KIMBALL WEBSTER.

John¹ Webster, of Ipswich, Mass., is supposed to have emigrated from Ipswich, England, county of Suffolk, in the year 1634. He was a freeholder in 1635, and died about 1645. He had eight children,—John, Mary, Hannah, Elizabeth, Abigail, Stephen, Israel and Nathan.

Stephen² was born in Ipswich, Mass.; removed to Newbury; from there, in 1653, to Haverhill. He was a tailor by trade, a man of influence and one of the selectmen in 1669. He married, first, March 24, 1663, Hannah, daughter of John Ayer, of Salisbury; second, widow Judith Brown. His children, all by his first wife, were Hannah, John, Mary, *Stephen³*, Nathan and Abigail. He died August 10, 1694.

Stephen³, born in Haverhill January 1, 1672, married widow Mary Cook. He was one of eight men in the garrison of John Webster, March, 1690. He died March 9, 1748. He had six children,—Samuel, John, Stephen, William, Ebenezer and Mary.

Ebenezer⁴, born September 20, 1711, married Mehitable Kimball, of Bradford, Mass. Their children were Lydia, Isaac, Mary, Ebenezer, Jonathan, Stephen, Moses, John.

Ebenezer⁵, born in Haverhill, Mass., February 1, 1744, settled in Pelham, N. H., was married three times. His third wife was Elizabeth Bradford, of Beverly, Mass., by whom he had Rebecca, Nancy, Moses, Simon, Isaac, Asa, John, Benjamin and Betsy. Ebenezer Webster was a quiet, industrious farmer in Pelham, and enjoyed the universal respect and esteem of his townsmen. He died in Pelham March 13, 1823, aged seventy-nine years. His widow survived him twenty-two years, dying at Amherst March 27, 1845.

John⁶ was born in Pelham, December 25, 1791. He married, August 22, 1815, Hannah, daughter of Eleazer and Sarah (Hale) Cummings, of Nottingham West (now Hudson), and great-granddaughter of Deacon Henry and Mary Hale. (The Hales and Cummings were noted families in early New England history. Mr. Cummings combined the vocations of farmer and school and music-teacher.

Mrs. Sarah (Hale) Cummings, born April 20, 1767, was a very remarkable woman in physical strength and endurance; while her husband was absent from home, occupied in teaching, she performed her household duties, which were many and arduous, having a large family of children, and also took charge of a stock of cattle. She was a woman of sterling worth, a member of the Congregational Church for many years. Her Christianity was a part of her daily life, not an adjunct, and she obeyed truly the golden rule. She died May 7, 1852.)

John Webster lived upon the old homestead in Pelham, excepting one year in Meredith and one in Hudson (formerly Nottingham West), until 1841, when he sold his farm in Pelham and purchased one in Amherst where he resided until 1846, when he returned to Hudson, and buying a farm upon Bush Hill, he lived there twenty years; then resided with his daughters (Mrs. Titcomb and Mrs. Baker) until his death, March 1, 1883, of old age. Mr. Webster was a man of great energy and unremitting industry, and it was only by hard, unceasing toil that the rough and rocky soil of the old homestead, at Pelham, could be made to yield a remunerative crop; but perseverance and patience conquered, and Mr. Webster was able to provide for his large family of children and insure himself a comfortable living for his old age. He was drafted in the War of 1812, and served in Captain Haynes' company of New Hampshire militia at Portsmouth, where he obtained an honorable discharge, and received for his services a pension from February 14, 1871. He was a loyal citizen, a good husband and father, a kind and attentive son, supporting his aged parents until their death, doing his duty faithfully in every position, and for many years he was universally called "Honest John Webster."

Mrs. Hannah (Cummings) Webster, although a woman of small stature and delicate health, performed faithfully her part in life as wife, mother and Christian. Industrious and frugal, she cared for her children, physically, morally and religiously; notwithstanding her weakness, she was a tower of strength to lean upon, and her children learned from her daily, by precept and example, the force of the words, a good Christian mother. She united with the Congregational Church in Pelham, and was an esteemed member of other churches of the same denomination wherever she resided. She died in Hudson February 3, 1871. The children of this worthy couple were Elizabeth B. (Mrs. Warren Blodgett), Moses, Sally Hale (Mrs. Simeon C. Tit-



Kimball Webster

comb), Eleazer C. (deceased), Louisa U. (Mrs. John H. Baker), Lucy Ann (Mrs. Daniel B. Cluff), *Kimball*, Hannah J. (deceased), John C., Nathan P., Willard H. (deceased), Milton E. (deceased), Orrin P. (deceased).

Kimball Webster, son of John and Hannah (Cummings) Webster, was born in Pelham, N. H., November 2, 1828. His education was acquired at the common schools of his native town and Hudson. While a boy he worked upon a farm in Hudson, and for a short time in the quarries in Pelham. He was one of that historic, heroic and truly illustrious band, the old "Forty-niners," which has furnished so much material for story and song. Before attaining his majority, in April, 1849, when the news of the discovery of gold in California had reached New England, he started and traveled across the country, arriving in the Sacramento Valley in October, six months being passed in reaching the golden West. He remained there about two years, engaged in mining and other pursuits; then went to Oregon, where he was a deputy-surveyor upon the government surveys, and returned home in the fall of 1854. In 1855 he was employed by the Hannibal and St. Jo Railroad Company in Missouri. In 1858 he resided in Vinalhaven, Me.; since that time he has been a resident of Hudson, where he owns and occupies a portion of the land purchased by his great-grandfather, Eleazer Cummings, in 1728.

Mr. Webster married, January 29, 1857, Abiah Cutter, daughter of Seth and Deborah (Gage) Cutter, of Pelham. Their surviving children are Lizzie Jane (Mrs. Horace A. Martin), Ella Frances (Mrs. Frank A. Walch), Eliza Ball (Mrs. Charles C. Leslie), Latina Ray, Julia Anna and Mary Newton.

Mr. Webster is a quiet, unostentatious man, of active temperament and of great executive ability. He has a marked power of making friends, and enjoys a high degree of popularity in a very large circle of acquaintance. He is a worker and does his work conscientiously and thoroughly, and as a surveyor of long experience he has a wide reputation as being one of the most accurate and reliable in the county. He is a Democrat in politics and an active believer in the Jacksonian theory that "The blessings of government, like the dews of heaven, should fall unseen, alike on the just and unjust." He has been the standard-bearer of a minority party in his town and county in many elections, and has generally polled more than the party vote. He was selectman for four years and chairman of the board. He has been justice of the peace since 1859, and is a trustee of the Mechanics' Savings-Bank, Nashua.

He is a member of Rising Sun (Nashua) Lodge of F. and A. M., Hudson Commandery, U. O. Golden Cross, and has been largely identified with the history of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry in Hillsborough County. He was the first to petition for the establishment of a grange in Hudson, and upon its organiza-

tion, December 8, 1873, was chosen its presiding officer, which office he held three years. He was one of the few to organize the New Hampshire State Grange, December 23, 1873, and also Hillsborough County Council, March 4, 1874, of which he was master two years, and secretary from December, 1876, until the organization, April 17, 1883, of its successor, Hillsborough County Pomona Grange, when he was made secretary of that body and is now holding that office. He has been an active and valuable member of this order from the first, and stands high in the regards of the fraternity.

He is much interested in historical matters and ancient landmarks. He has done much to preserve the latter by careful and creditable copies of many of the much worn and injured plats of portions of lands, old grants, etc., in "Old Dunstable."

Mr. Webster is a safe counselor; a good representative of New England's intelligent farmers and business men, an honest man, and worthily stands high in public esteem for his hearty co-operation in everything tending to the elevation or improvement of the community.