

HAYES-GENOTER HISTORY AND GENEALOGY LIBRARY

CENTENNIAL OF CIVIL WAR IN PELHAM

June 18, 1961 at 3 P.M. Library Building

A reenactment of the Dedication of the Pelham Public Library and Memorial Room, Dec. 2, 1896, in honor of the heroic soldiers who fought to win and preserve our freedom.

Chairman of the Day - Albert Lynch (impersonating George S. Butler)

America - Choir - led by Rita Ducharme

Honorable George Butler (Judge Lynch), "Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to greet so many who are interested in the Library and Memorial Building erected by the Town of Pelham and the generous donors who have gone from Pelham and contributed to it, and in their behalf I bid you a most cordial welcome to these dedication ceremonies.

At the annual meeting of the voters of the town of Pelham held upon the second Tuesday of March, 1895, an article was inserted in the town warrant as follows: 'To see if the town will vote to build an addition to the Town Hall for Library and other purposes and to raise and appropriate money therefor.' This was the first attempt on the part of the town to have a suitable room for their Library. This idea of having the Town Hall enlarged for Library purposes was voted down by a large majority, but it set the townspeople to thinking that something must be done for a suitable building for a Library. Immediately after this meeting a petition was circulated that a special town meeting be called to see if the town would vote to build a Library, and a Memorial building for the use of the Town. Agreeable to this petition a special town meeting was called by the Selectmen, April 9, 1895. At this meeting more than two-thirds of the voters of the town, voted to build this building, which we are dedicating today.

We have a room in this building designed as a Memorial Room. The room contains marble tablets upon which are the names of the soldiers that went from Pelham to the wars. We have invited all of the Veterans, who are living to be present at these exercises today. Many of them are with us and although they have grown older and gray hairs have come upon them, they have in their hearts the same love for their country that they had in the days of '61, and we feel that we cannot honor them too much for what they did for us in those days that tried men's souls.

I now introduce to you the Chairman of the Building Committee, Charles W. Hobbs, Veteran of the 13th. New Hampshire Volunteers:" (Mr. Hobbs impersonated by Ralph Harmon)

Mr. Hobbs' Address - "Fellow citizens, members of the Grand Army, Ladies and Gentlemen: We are assembled here today to celebrate the important event in the history of our town, the dedication of this beautiful building which is to be one of the most valuable and instructive features of our town in the future. We have assembled here 100 years from the incorporation of the town to dedicate this building for the use of the young people to commemorate the memories of those who offered their lives and services for the protection of the rights and interests of this country. It has been, ever since the opening of the Public Library, the hope and wish of the friends of that library, which includes every member of that cooperation, that at some day it might have a suitable home- something that might be a home and be an influence in the community. This has been effected, and today we are here to dedicate a library building which I presume, may not be more than equalled in any town of our size and population in the state.

This building is erected not only by the town of Pelham, but by friends of the town, the sons and daughters who have gone out of town to reside elsewhere, and the descendants of those who have been honored residents of our town.

Your committee, after studying the different plans submitted, selected the one presented by Messrs. Stickney & Austin of Lowell, as

the most desirable, and which we believe will meet with the approval of all. You have here the Memorial Room, the book-stack room, the room for the Town Officers with apartment for keeping the safe and the records, the delivery room, and all has been completed without, except some of the furniture for this Memorial Room, which is soon to be put in position. It has been completed without exceeding the appropriation and the gifts of old residents and descendants of the town. This committee, whatever their faults, have had in mind only the best interests of the town in the construction of this building. It has been their intention to finish this building without incurring a single dollar of outside debt and get a return for every dollar they invested here.

Now Mr. Chairman, I will present to you the keys of the building and the deed of the lot of land on which it stands."

The keys were received by C.W. Seavey, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen with the following remarks: (Mr. Albert Harris, chairman of the Board impersonated Mr. Seavey.)

Mr. Seavey's Remarks: "Mr. Chairman and fellow citizens; In behalf of the town it gives me great pleasure to receive the keys of this beautiful library. I think I voice the sentiments of all when I say we are proud of our Library. It fills a long felt need.

When we think of the advantages this library will bring to the rising generation, I think we have a right to be proud of our Library. In connection with our Library, we have this beautiful Memorial Room, with tablets containing the names of the soldiers who have gone forth to fight the battles of their country. We all have a pride here. The names of the soldiers will always be kept sacred in the hearts of the people. Many of our soldiers have answered the last great roll-call but, we are fortunate in having with us today many who have survived.

We bid you all welcome here today, and thank the donors for their generous contributions. We wish to express our thanks and invite you to come here always. Our doors are always open to you, not as strangers, but as stock holders who have an equal right with us. Today the Selectmen of this town assume the responsibility of this building. These keys which I hold will pass into the hands of our successors, who we trust, will so regard the interests of the library, that we have passed on- our Library will remain down to the twentieth century, in as good or better condition than today.

Dedicatory Prayer - Rev. Augustus Berry - (impersonated by Rev. James Kidd)

Roll Call of "Soldiers from Pelham in War of the Rebellion" by Selectman Thomas J. Cleghorn

Taps - Played by Bugler -- John Woodbury Richardson

Doxology - Choir led by Rita Ducharme