

Bliss, Leonard, Richardson, Church, and Kendall families, and was a descendant of John Howland, John Tilley, and Richard Warren of the *Mayflower*. His mother was a native of Brixham, co. Devon, England, and came to America in 1827.

In 1845 Mr. Moffett's parents removed to Rodman, Jefferson Co., N. Y., and there his early life was spent, with the exception of two years of study at the Jefferson County Institute in Watertown, N. Y. In 1860 he entered the employ of the Watertown Bank & Loan Company in Watertown, where he remained for five years. He then became connected with Wooster Sherman's private bank for a short time, and in 1866 helped to reorganize a private bank owned by Norris Winslow. This became the Merchants' Bank, and Mr. Moffett was its cashier until 1882, as well as a stockholder and director. In that year he undertook the building of waterworks, electric light plants, steam railroads, street railways, etc., and the firm of Moffett, Hodgkins & Clarke, with which he was connected, had offices in New York City, and did a very extensive business in nearly every State of the Union and in Canada. After the dissolution of this company in 1893 Mr. Moffett did not engage in any other active business, but was occupied with his private affairs.

He always maintained a residence in Watertown, was active in the Methodist Church there, and was influential in establishing the Young Men's Christian Association in his home city. He was connected with many enterprises in Watertown, both philanthropic and commercial. He was an active Republican, and later a Progressive, but he never held any political office. He had much to do with making the Thousand Islands a summer resort, and for many years his family spent their summers in their cottage there. Shortly before his death, however, he purchased a home at Sacket's Harbor on Lake Ontario, where he contemplated spending his last years.

Mr. Moffett was a man of unusual physical vitality, and never knew illness until his last few years. Of sanguine temperament and generous, fun-loving disposition, his years sat lightly upon him, and he walked and spoke with the vigor of a much younger man. His mental abilities and business acumen were of a high order, while his readiness in mastering details and in going to the bottom of any subject in which he was interested was marvellous, even in his later years.

He married, 28 January 1862, Frances Pamela Todd of Rodman, N. Y., who died 26 January 1909, daughter of Enoch L. and Emmeline Jennette (Smith) Todd, a woman whose strength and sweetness of character, combined with unusual gifts of mind and with outward charm, made her an ideal companion and mother. Five children survive their father: Charles Todd, Jeannette Todd, Grace Emily, Frances Smith, and Earle Mortimer. Another child, Ella Bowman, died at the age of five years.

JOSIAH HENRY BENTON, A.M., LL.D., of Boston, a resident member since 1891, was born at Addison, Vt., 4 August 1843, the son of Josiah Henry and Martha Ellen (Danforth) Benton, and died in Boston 6 February 1917. He was a descendant of Andrew<sup>1</sup>

Benton of Milford, Conn., through Samuel,<sup>2</sup> Jacob,<sup>3</sup> Jacob,<sup>4</sup> Samuel Slade,<sup>5</sup> and Josiah Henry,<sup>6</sup> his father.

He attended the Literary and Scientific Institute at New London, N. H., and studied law at the Albany Law School, which gave him the degree of LL.B. in 1866. From Dartmouth College he received the degree of A.M. in 1869 and from Norwich University that of LL.D. in 1908.

At the age of nineteen he enlisted as a private in Company H, Twelfth Vermont Volunteers, and served in the Civil War from August 1862 until July 1863.

In 1866 he was admitted to the bar, and practised law for a year at Bradford, Vt., and at Lancaster, N. H., from 1867 until 1873. He was assistant clerk and clerk of the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 1868-69 and in 1870-1872. In 1873 he came to Boston, where he built up an extensive law practice. He became general counsel for the Old Colony Railroad and for its steamboat lines, and later was employed in the same capacity by the New Haven interests. He was also a director and counsel for the Northern Railroad of New Hampshire, and from 1894 to 1906 he lectured on corporations and railroads before the Boston University Law School.

In 1894 Mr. Benton became a trustee of the Boston Public Library, and from 1908 on was president of the Board. He had been a trustee a year when the Library was moved from Boylston Street to Copley Square. Before he became president of the Board, even when business affairs were pressing, he devoted much time daily to the Library problems. In his later years he visited the Library every day, giving to it practically all of his attention. The branch-library system was developed largely through his efforts. When the plan was proposed of enlarging the site of the central building by the purchase of three properties on Blagden Street, he volunteered to acquire them in his own name, in order that the city might obtain them at the lowest possible prices. He often appeared before the City Council on Library questions, and always showed a thorough knowledge of this department. He insisted that the Boston Public Library should be kept aloof from Boston municipal politics, and politics never entered into the conduct of that institution, its system of management being a model for all other city departments. As president of the Board of Trustees, he always took care that its annual report should be issued as soon as possible after the close of the fiscal year, and the report for 1916-17 was issued while the inauguration ceremonies were being held in City Hall. He made generous provision for the Library in his will.

Mr. Benton served also as a trustee of the Massachusetts State Library and as president of its Board of Trustees. He was also a trustee of Boston University. He was a Republican, but never took any especially active part in politics. He was a Mason, and a member of several societies and clubs, among which may be mentioned the Bostonian Society, the Vermont Historical Society, and the Algonquin Club.

He was the author of monographs and addresses on legal, economic, and legislative subjects, and also of "Samuel Slade Benton, His

Ancestors and Descendants," 1901, "A Notable Libel Suit," 1904, "Early Census Making in Massachusetts," 1905, "The Story of the Old Boston Town House," 1908, "The Book of Common Prayer," 1910, "Warning Out in New England," 1911, "John Baskerville, Type Founder and Printer," and "Voting in the Field."

Mr. Benton married first, 19 May 1866, Josephine Emery Aldrich, who died 8 April 1872, daughter of Richard Ransom and Emma H. Aldrich of Bradford, Vt.; and secondly, 2 September 1875, Mary Elizabeth Abbott of Concord, N. H., who survives him, daughter of Charles Dudley and Laurinda (Holbrook) Abbott.

*Cf. Boston Evening Transcript, 7 February 1917.*

HENRY DWIGHT HOLTON, A.M., M.D., of Brattleboro, Vt., a resident member since 1912, was born at Saxton's River, Vt., 24 July 1838, the son of Elihu Dwight and Nancy (Grout) Holton, and died at Brattleboro 12 February 1917. He traced his descent from Henry<sup>1</sup> Holton, through Joseph,<sup>2</sup> Isaac,<sup>3</sup> William,<sup>4</sup> Bethiah,<sup>5</sup> Joeth,<sup>6</sup> and Elihu Dwight,<sup>7</sup> his father. On his mother's side he was descended from Capt. John Grout of Watertown and Sudbury, Mass., one of the early immigrants from England.

He attended the academy at Saxton's River, and studied medicine in New York, graduating at the University of New York in 1860.

After six months of dispensary work in Brooklyn, N. Y., he began practice as a physician at Putney, Vt., was surgeon of the Twelfth Vermont Volunteers in the Civil War, and in 1867 settled at Brattleboro, where he spent the rest of his life. He early took a leading part in the medical profession in the Connecticut Valley, his practice reaching into Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He was long the best known surgeon of that region, and his professional activities continued until his election in 1900 as secretary of the Vermont Board of Health, a position which he held until 1912. After accepting this office he gradually relinquished his practice, and devoted himself unselfishly to his official work and to the many business and scientific organizations with which he was connected.

During his active professional life he was a member of the Connecticut River Medical Society and the Vermont State Society, and served each as president. In 1873 he was called to the chair of *materia medica* in the medical department of the University of Vermont, and lectured there for thirteen years. He was also a trustee of the University and of the State Agricultural College from 1873 on for eighteen years. At the same time he was medical examiner of the Vermont Asylum for the Insane at Brattleboro. He joined the American Medical Association in 1864 and was one of its vice-presidents in 1880. He was active in the organization of the Pan-American Medical Congress and in the National Society for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, and he was a member of numerous other scientific organizations in this country and abroad, such as the British Medical Association, the American Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the New England Educational League and the American Public Health Association.

He was also prominent in public life. He was a member of the Vermont Senate in 1884 and of the House of Representatives in 1888, a commissioner to the Nicaraguan Canal Convention in 1892, and to the Columbian Exposition in the following year, and a delegate to the Republican national convention in 1896. He was long president of the Vermont branch of the American Red Cross Society, surgeon of the Colonial Wars, and a member and at one time president of the Vermont Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

With all his responsibilities he did not fail to show deep interest in the affairs of his home town. For twenty-five years he served on the School Board, of which he was chairman for fifteen years. He was trustee from the first of the Brattleboro Free Library, and moderator for twelve years of the town meetings. The Brattleboro Home for the Aged and Disabled and the Austine Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Blind owed their existence chiefly to his broad humanitarianism and were objects of his special care during his last years. He was for sixteen years president of the Brattleboro Gas Light Company, for many years director and latterly president of the Vermont National Bank, and director and vice-president in the Fort Dummer Mills.

In his will he bequeathed his home and a sum of money to the Baptist Church, in which he had been a deacon, and left bequests to several missionary societies, to the Austine Institution, the Home for the Aged and Disabled, the Leland and Gray Seminary in Townshend, Vt., the College of Medicine, the University of Vermont, and other institutions.

He married, 19 November 1862, Ellen Hoit, who died in 1909.

HON. HENRY SEWALL WEBSTER, A.M., of Gardiner, Me., a resident member since 1909, was born at Augusta, Me., 26 September 1845, the son of John Milton and Sarah Hayes (Hussey) Webster, and died at Gardiner 16 February 1917. He was a descendant of John<sup>1</sup> Webster of Ipswich, Mass., 1635, through Nathan,<sup>2</sup> Nathan,<sup>3</sup> Nathan,<sup>4</sup> Nathan,<sup>5</sup> John Ordway,<sup>6</sup> and John Milton,<sup>7</sup> his father.

He received his education at the Augusta High School and at Bowdoin College, at which he was graduated in 1867 and from which he received the degree of A.M. in 1870.

After graduation he taught school for three years, was admitted to the bar in 1870, and in the same year took up his residence in Gardiner. Later he became cashier of the Cobbossee National Bank of Gardiner, and in 1888 was elected treasurer of the Gardiner Savings Institution, of which he was treasurer and trustee at the time of his decease. He held various municipal offices in Gardiner, and from 1885 until 1893 served as judge of probate and insolvency for Kennebec County, Me. He was a member of the Maine Historical Society and an honorary member of the New Hampshire Genealogical Society. He belonged also to the Society of Sons of the American Revolution and to the Society of Mayflower Descendants, was a thirty-second degree Mason, and had held high office in several Masonic bodies.

He was the author of some books on Masonic history, and in 1904