

1917

SAMUEL KENDALL BURBANK of Pittsford, Vt., a resident member since 1916, was born at Proctorsville, Vt., 15 March 1844, the son of Abel and Almira (Blood) Burbank, and died at Pittsford 21 January 1917. His paternal grandfather, Samuel Burbank, son of Samuel and grandson of Timothy, served as a captain at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

He received his education in the common schools, and devoted his life to business and to serving others in the spirit of Christian helpfulness. As town clerk and town treasurer of Pittsford, as a member of the Vermont Legislature in 1894-95, and as president, treasurer, and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Maclure Library Association, he was faithful in the conscientious performance of duty and won a multitude of friends. Loyal to his own church, he was always ready to coöperate with other churches in every useful work. Few among the citizens of Pittsford have been more unselfish, more versatile, more useful, and more beloved.

He married, 19 June 1872, Nancy J. Tottingham, who survives him.

ALFRED OTIS LARKIN of Portsmouth, N. H., a resident member since 1880, was born at Monterey, Cal., the son of Thomas Oliver and Rachel Haven (Holmes) Larkin, and died in Hong-Kong 21 January 1917. His paternal grandparents were Ebenezer and Mary (Oliver) Larkin, Mary Oliver being a descendant of Elder Thomas Oliver, who came to Boston from England in 1632. He was also descended from Richard Warren of the *Mayflower*. His father, Thomas Oliver Larkin, was United States consul at Monterey, before the acquisition of California by the United States.

Alfred Otis Larkin was educated at private schools in Washington, D. C., and was a student at the Harvard Medical School in 1868-69. He was a man of wealth, and never engaged in any active business or profession. After the death of his parents he made his home in Portsmouth, but spent his winters abroad. He was a great traveller, and had journeyed around the world several times. For many years he was a vestryman of St. John's Church (Episcopal), Portsmouth, and he was a member of the Portsmouth Athenæum and of a number of California societies.

He married, at Portsmouth, Mary Ball, daughter of Trueworthy M. and Alice Douglas (Sistare) Ball, and had one daughter, Alice Sistare Larkin, who was married, in September 1914, to Henry Wroughton Tonemin of St. Albans, co. Herts, England.

JAMES MACMASTER CODMAN, A.B., of Brookline, Mass., a resident member since 1894, was born in Paris, France, 17 April 1831, the son of Charles Russell and Anne (Macmaster) Codman, and died at Brookline 24 January 1917. He was a descendant of Robert¹ Codman, the immigrant, who was at Salem, Mass., in 1637, lived later at Salisbury, Mass., and in Connecticut, and died at Edgartown, then belonging to New York but later transferred to Massachusetts, in

1678, his line of descent leading through Stephen,² John,³ John,⁴ and John⁵ to Charles Russell,⁶ his father. His mother, born in London, England, in July 1798, was the daughter of James Macmaster of London and his wife, Anne Van Buskirk of New Jersey, daughter of Col. Abraham (Jacob, Thomas) and Jane (Dey) Van Buskirk. Jane Dey was of New York, and was the daughter of Anthony⁴ Dey (Richard,³ Anthony,² Richard,¹ who emigrated from Holland to New Netherland about 1635) and his wife, Hester Schuyler (Philip,³ Arnold,² Philip,¹ who emigrated from Holland to New Netherland in 1650).

James Macmaster Codman received his early education at Mr. and Mrs. Marshall's school, Bulfinch Street, Boston, at Cushing and Forbes's school, under the Park Street Church, Boston, at the Boston Latin School, and at Dr. Muhlenberg's school at Flushing, Long Island, N. Y. He entered Harvard College in 1847, and received the degree of A.B. in 1851.

In the year in which he received his academic degree Mr. Codman went to the East Indies, and afterwards, for a few years, he was engaged in Boston in business connected with the India trade. In 1858 he removed from Boston to Brookline, and thenceforth, until his death, this town was his place of residence. Much of his time, however, was spent in travel, and, in addition to the East Indies, he visited Japan, Egypt, many European countries, the West Indies, and various parts of the North American continent.

He was interested in agriculture and horticulture, and from his student days had made a study of the pedigrees of blooded cattle, especially of Guernsey cattle. He had visited the island of Guernsey, and was one of the first to import into America a herd of Guernsey cattle. He was for many years president, and afterwards president emeritus, of the American Cattle Club.

Literature and art also claimed his attention. For nearly twenty years he served as a trustee of the Brookline Public Library, and for two years he was one of the selectmen of the town. He was a member of the Union Club and of the St. Botolph Club of Boston.

He married, 19 October 1858, Henrietta Gray Sargent, who survives him, daughter of Ignatius and Henrietta (Gray) Sargent. Their children were: 1. Francis, born in 1859, died unmarried in 1885. 2. James Macmaster, of Brookline, A.B. (Harvard, 1884), born 20 April 1862, a lawyer practising in Boston. 3. Henry Sargent, born in 1864, died unmarried in 1893. 4. Philip, A.B. (Harvard, 1889), born 6 October 1868, died unmarried 28 October 1896. 5. Cora, born 12 July 1874, married, 24 July 1894, to William Ely of Providence, R. I.

JOHN FLETCHER MOFFETT of Watertown, N. Y., a resident member since 1915, was born at Paris Hill, Oneida Co., N. Y., 15 April 1841, the son of Charles Denny and Emily Hayman (Knollin) Moffett, and died in New York City 28 January 1917. He traced his descent from William¹ Moffat or Muffet of Newbury, Mass., through Joseph,² Joseph,³ Joseph,⁴ and Charles Denny,⁵ his father. He also numbered among his ancestors, on the paternal side, members of the Sargent,

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 Andrew¹

Benton of Milford, Conn., through Samuel,² Jacob,³ Jacob,⁴ Samuel Slade,⁵ and Josiah Henry,⁶ 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