

*Recollections of Sixty Years of Service  
in the American Antiquarian Society*

IT WAS in September, 1881, that the writer of these reminiscences was introduced to the Library of the American Antiquarian Society—a day made doubly notable because it was a birthday and the beginning of a career which was so filled with experiences then little comprehended. Since that memorable day in 1881 my life, except for family ties, has been devoted to the service of the Society. It was at the suggestion of the Reverend Charles M. Lamson, who was my pastor, that my name was brought to the attention of Mr. Salisbury who was seeking someone to make a catalogue of the Library. After an interview with Mr. Salisbury, I started in on what was to be a life-long service, and it was he who personally paid my salary for the first few years. The best way to begin these reminiscences is to describe the library which I entered, and especially its contents, and its activities so far as I was acquainted with them.

The second library building of the American Antiquarian Society, fronting on Lincoln Square, was finished in 1853, after designs by the Providence architect, Thomas A. Tefft. It was a two-story building, 50 feet wide by 80 feet deep, and 42 feet from the ground to the eaves, constructed of brick and freestone. In front were three arched openings on the lower floor, and three windows above. On the sides were six windows on each floor, and in the rear three windows on each floor. Tefft's plans, strange to say, do not seem to be in the Society's archives, although there are several of his

designs for the exterior of the building which were not accepted.

The Annex, the funds for which were supplied by Stephen Salisbury, Jr., was completed in 1878. The plans of the architect, Stephen C. Earle, are preserved in the Library archives, and incidentally show both the exterior and interior arrangement of the old building. This Annex, at the west end of the old Library, was 51 feet in length and 46 feet in width, constructed of brick and freestone.

With my memory filled with impressions of those earliest years, nothing stands out more clearly than the entrance to the Library. The building stood a few steps above the sidewalk, then a few more steps across a short lawn, where one was faced by three arched openings, with the doorway in the center. Once in the entrance hall, the visitor was faced by a colossal statue of Moses. This overpowering figure, copied after Michelangelo's statue in the Church of St. Peter at Rome, was presented to the Society by Stephen Salisbury in 1861. Probably no one object in the building is better remembered today by those who were visitors fifty and more years ago than this statue. I remember well when a Rabbi visited the building with a group of children and standing before the statue of the famous law-giver, explained the lessons taught from the tables of stone. When the Library was moved to its new site in 1910, the statue of Moses was presented to the County Court House, where it still stands on the second floor, more closely associated than ever with those who promulgate the law.

In the rear of the statue was the entrance through double doors, nearly always shut, leading to the stacked hall where the United States Government Documents and State Documents were stored.

On either side of the entrance hall were two small rooms. On the right, the room which in the records was called the

northeast lobby, was fitted up in 1886 for the Society's large collection of manuscripts. In the room on the left was the collection of almanacs and the Isaiah Thomas printing press.

On either side of the statue of Moses was a wide double stairway ascending to the main library above. At the top of this stairway there was a small hall between the Librarian's room and the main hall.

Having ascended the stairway, the visitor faced the main hall of the old library building. This large room was planned for about 43,000 volumes. Around the room were 11 alcoves about 24 feet in height, with an iron gallery platform, 7 feet from the floor, running around the room. Each alcove was lighted by one entire window. Each gallery was reached by a stairway ascending from the nearest alcove, one at the left and one at the right.

In the main hall at either side of the entrance were two tall exhibition cases in which were shown early American Indian arrowheads, pipes, and other artefacts. A catalogue of the Indian relics was printed in the Council Report for April, 1868. The Indian relics were presented to the Peabody Museum in 1908, although a selection was first made by the Worcester Historical Society. At either side of the hall, near the entrance, were two flat-top exhibition cases, in one of which were such interesting early relics as the Governor John Winthrop silver tipped jug, the Adam Winthrop sword and sash, the Sir Walter Raleigh tobacco box, and the vial of tea spilled in Boston Harbor. In the corresponding case opposite were displayed incunabula and rare books. In the main hall were two cabinets of Central American and Mexican relics, the results of the various expeditions sponsored by Stephen Salisbury. In 1886 the Council voted to send to the Peabody Museum in Cambridge the perishable material, including Indian, Icelandic, and Hawaiian apparel. The

imperishable articles were then placed in the south lobby room to the left of the lower floor entrance. In March, 1895, a large portion of the collection of archaeological and ethnological material was transferred to the Peabody Museum, and most of the historical relics were given to the Worcester Society of Antiquity, now the Worcester Historical Society. Finally in 1908 the entire remainder of the archaeological and ethnological relics contained in four cases, were given to the Peabody Museum, in return for which we received the sum of \$400 with which to buy reference books.

The room was lined on the walls and columns with busts and portraits, and was filled with various articles of historical interest. At the far end stood a replica of the Michelangelo statue of Christ which had been presented to the Society in 1859 by the elder Stephen Salisbury. This statue, upon the removal to the new Library building in 1910, was presented to the Worcester Art Museum, although thirty years later it disintegrated with the rest of their plaster casts and was destroyed. Also in the main room were the marble busts of Washington and Franklin copied for the Honorable Ira M. Barton in Italy in 1850 by H. Micali and Son, and presented in 1867 by his widow. A prominent object, standing on one of the round radiators, was the famous Alabama stone, one of the most interesting relics owned by the Society. To the right of the hall was a revolving case of photographs of Central American antiquities. Upon the removal to the new building in 1910, the photographs were taken out and filed and the case was destroyed.

In one of the showcases in the early days was what was described as "a desiccated Indian mummy." This famous and rather unsightly relic—the mummified figure of a woman—had been found in Kentucky and was presented to the Society by a Mr. Charles Wilkins in 1816. In Isaiah

Thomas's Diary, under date of October 5, 1816, there is a record of the gift, and Benjamin T. Hill's scholarly notes tell much about the wanderings of the mummy before it finally reached the Society. The mummy was exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876, and again at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. It was then presented to the Smithsonian Institution where it is now presumably on display.

The annual meeting of the Society was held in the main hall each October. A small table for the presiding officer was flanked by two sofas, one an old green-covered Empire sofa, which has lately been disposed of, and an eighteenth-century sofa from the home of Waldo Flint, which is now in the Council Room. On these two sofas sat the nestors of the Society—Edward Everett Hale, Justin Winsor, Charles Deane, Nathaniel Paine, and other elderly members. Mr. Hale made an impressive figure and, since he was a ready speaker, was always prominent in the discussions at the meeting. Before the formal meeting the members gathered in the Librarian's room for informal talk and social intercourse.

At the far end of the main hall was the Annex, completed in 1878. The outer wall of the entire west alcove of the main hall was cut out and wide doors with glass windows above installed, so that the two halls looked like one continuous room. Book alcoves went entirely around the room. In the center was a broad balustraded staircase leading to the floor below where newspapers were stored. At the entrance of the Annex, against the railing of the staircase, was the John Hancock double chair, one of the finest pieces of furniture in the country. On either side of the room were two long tables for the use of readers, and at the far end was an extra long table in front of the local history and genealogy alcoves. Here Mrs. Alice Morse Earle was accustomed to work, compiling her many useful books on the life and customs of

early New England. Near at hand, on the floor below, were the files of newspapers of which she made so much use in obtaining facts for her invaluable volumes.

At the left center of the room was a large plaster reproduction of the façade of a temple of Labna, Yucatan, taking the entire space from floor to ceiling. The reproduction was made by Edward H. Thompson, at the expense of Stephen Salisbury, Jr., and is described in the *Proceedings* for October, 1887, when it came to the Society. Although the portal entrance was occasionally mistaken for a fireplace, the relic was archaeologically interesting. When the new building was erected in 1910, the Labna façade was presented to the Smithsonian Institution.

Busts, paintings, and engravings were displayed around the room in what little wall space remained. At the north-west corner of the room was a book-lift operated by hand. At the west end of the room was a large glass exhibition case devoted to Yucatan relics brought from Central America by Mr. Salisbury.

After the Annex was built, the alcoves ran entirely around the two rooms, each separated from the center area by a wooden fence. Each alcove had two floors, the second floor being a balcony platform, with a hand railing, allowing easy access to all the books in the upper as well as the lower alcoves. Communication between the lower and upper floors of the alcoves were provided for by four flights of stairs.

The alcoves were lettered from A to W. Beginning at the left side at the main entrance the alcoves followed this arrangement:

- A—State Documents
- B—Miscellaneous (Law, Music, Psalmody)
- C—Spanish Americana (Davis Alcove)
- D—Miscellaneous (Theology and Classics)
- E—Bibles, Hymnology, Incunabula

## ANNEX

- F—Periodicals
  - G—Periodicals
  - H—Periodicals
  - J—Periodicals
  - K—State Histories
  - L—Local History (Thomas Alcove)
  - M—Genealogy
  - N—Slavery and Civil War
  - O—Miscellaneous
  - P—Massachusetts State Documents
  - Q—State Documents and Learned Societies
- (Apparently 11 alcoves in Annex. Hence no alcove I)

## MAIN HALL

- R—Biography
- S—Miscellaneous (Bentley Collection)
- T—Miscellaneous (Thomas imprints, Juveniles)
- U—Miscellaneous
- V—Miscellaneous and Bound Pamphlets
- W—West end of main hall, floor—encyclopedias; Gallery—American history

The alcoves ran around the two halls from left to right, except for alcove W, which after the Library became overcrowded, occupied the center west end of the main hall. When the library was moved to the new building in 1910, the alcove system of letters was retained, although many of the special collections, such as genealogy and local history, have received different classifications.

In the front of the building, on the second floor, was the Librarian's Room. This contained much of the fine furniture in the building. The two excellent photographs of the office taken by E. B. Luce, at the time of leaving the library in 1910, show the appearance of the room, which had changed little in the previous thirty years. On the Lincoln Square side was the Hancock clock, ordered from London by

Thomas Hancock in 1738, and descended to John Hancock, from whose estate it was purchased in 1838 by John Chandler of Petersham and presented to the Society. This walnut veneered clock, over nine feet tall, has been frequently mentioned in the printed annals of the Society, more fully than elsewhere in the Librarian's Report for October, 1933. It was in that year that it was cleaned and on the inside of the main striking wheel were discovered the words: "Christopher Townsend cleaned this clock December the 14th day 1754."

In the Librarian's room were two interesting historical desks or secretaries, those of Governor James Bowdoin, and Governor John Leverett. The Leverett secretary previously had a mirrored front, but this later innovation was removed by Mr. Lincoln when the furniture was repaired in 1908, and two wooden panels restored. A semi-circular sideboard and a desk chest of drawers also ornamented the room, but these had no historical associations, having been purchased by Dr. Haven at auction to provide needed furniture. A similar purchase was the large gate-legged table used for the meetings of the Council, standing in the center of the room. The Chippendale chairs around the room, according to the Librarian's Report of October, 1894, came from the Lincoln and Salisbury families. In the corner of the room was a modern roll-top desk, purchased by Dr. Haven and left to Mr. Barton, his successor, with the words: "I desire you to occupy my desk." This desk was disposed of upon the removal to the new library in 1910. In this room were the portraits of early officers of the Society: Isaiah Thomas, Thomas L. Winthrop, John Davis, the two Salisburys, and Samuel F. Haven. Two chandeliers were installed in the office in 1885.

At either end of the Librarian's office were two small rooms. That at the south was sometimes called the Mather Room, as the works of the Mather family were here pre-



served, in a tall secretary with glass doors, once the property of Governor Belcher. In this room were also the Hancock counting-room desk, the Hancock sideboard, the Mather high-chair, and the Waldo Flint glass-front bookcase. At the right was the lavatory, and an aisle leading to another small room which was used chiefly for sorting newspapers. From this further room ascended the only stairway to the attic. A doorway connected with the alcoves in the main hall.

At the north side of the office was a room chiefly used for great masses of unbound pamphlets, tied in bundles and labelled "Political," "Religious," "Temperance," "Masonic," "Education," etc.; also there were many bundles of auction and booksellers' catalogues. It was in this room that Charles H. Lincoln, who was engaged to catalogue the manuscripts from 1907 to 1910, had his desk.

The lower hall under the old building was shelved for bulky or little used collections, and in 1895 iron stacks, with wooden shelves (which came from the Massachusetts State Library in Boston) were erected. Many of these iron stacks are still in use in the basement of the present library building. In this room was the large collection of textbooks, and, as detailed in the Librarian's Report for October, 1895, long sets of Government publications, the college material, state and town documents; also many of the directories were removed to this room, thus giving greatly needed space in the alcoves above.

The lower hall under the Annex was reached by a broad stairway from the room above. At the further end of the lower hall stood a large safe, which was sold upon the removal to the new building. It was in this room that the Society's large collection of newspapers was shelved, immediately accessible to the long work tables in the room above. The newspapers were constantly used by historical researchers, largely because few libraries in the country had

so comprehensive a collection of eighteenth century papers. An excellent catalogue of the collection was prepared for the 1880 United States Census and was printed in 1884 in that work, vol. 8, pp. 427-36. In 1906 the newspaper collection outgrew its space and it was necessary to rent a storeroom at No. 3 Summer Street, near Lincoln Square, where hundreds of volumes and unbound files were piled on the floor. This inconvenience was remedied when the new building was erected.

The attic hall, which was in the front of the building, over the Librarian's office, was shelved in 1895 to accommodate little used and unbound Government documents. Many piles of late 19th century unbound newspapers were also stored here, but the poor quality of wood-pulp paper and the heat of the attic combined to make the papers unsuitable for binding and many had to be discarded.

The appearance of the old library building is well shown in a series of twelve fine photographs of the various rooms taken by E. B. Luce in 1910, and substantially bound for the Society's archives. Although there are many exterior views of the building taken before the Civil War, there seem to be only three photographs of the interior—the main hall—taken before the construction of the Annex in 1878. Two are photographs, probably by Nathaniel Paine, about 1870 and 1875, and the other is a larger view which was engraved and made for Mr. Paine's "Account of the American Antiquarian Society," 1876.

In the early days the second building was heated by a furnace, with steam heat. In 1882 steam heat was supplied to all parts of the building by a boiler connected with the Courthouse, nearly two hundred feet away, but in 1884 a new low pressure boiler was installed under the south side of the Annex, and the services of a janitor were engaged. Gas was introduced in the offices in the seventies and in the main

hall in 1884. In 1881 a telephone, which had come into use in Worcester only three years previously, was installed. Electric lights were not introduced until 1899.

The catalogue room was in the Annex, on the left side, in back of the Labna façade. Among the objects in the room was the slate-topped table which greatly attracted the late Wallace Nutting as a very rare piece of furniture. This table was inlaid with small pieces of wood in design and had one of the original slates and also one of the very early "tear-drop" pull handles. It came to the Society in 1847 and formerly belonged to the Reverend Nehemiah Walter who was graduated at Harvard in 1684. Over the table hung a rare map of Lake George engraved by Thomas Johnston at Boston in 1756. Also in the room was a fireplace, a small gate-legged table which once belonged to the Reverend Thaddeus Maccarty, a David Wood shelf clock presented by Clinton M. Dyer of Worcester, the William Price View of the Town of Boston, and an early 18th century mirror of antique design with a star set in the middle of the glass. Only recently this mirror was sent to the Metropolitan Museum in New York. The card catalogue, which was on the west wall, was begun in 1881 and for many years this was the work to which I was especially devoted. Much of the early cataloguing was done from shelf lists made by John Riordan and Miss Rice, without my seeing the original volumes, but in later years all books and pamphlets were inspected personally. Space for the catalogue cases seemed ample for many years, but by the time we left the building to remove to Salisbury Street, the cards had become so numerous that resort was made to many separate cases.

Much of the furniture in the building has already been mentioned in the description of the various rooms. Among the piece of furniture not yet noted was a Windsor chair, the true quality of which was not discovered until the removal

to the new building. It was covered with black oilcloth and stood in one of the alcoves in the newspaper room under the Annex. When at Mr. Waldo Lincoln's suggestion the cloth cover was removed, it was found that the chair was a rare and unusual specimen of a very early Windsor writing chair. Another result of refinishing was the discovery of a fine curly maple chest of drawers under layers of dingy red paint.

A chair with some historic significance was known as the Pynchon chair and was presented to the Society by the Hampden Mechanic Association of Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1833. It was an oak arm chair made of wood from the house built by Hon. John Pynchon in 1660 and torn down in 1831. Mr. Barton in his Report for October, 1895, gives a detailed history of this chair. Since it did not particularly fit in with our colonial furniture and would be highly valued by the Connecticut Valley Historical Society in Springfield, it was turned over to that institution in 1928.

The Isaiah Thomas printing press, with the type case and composing table, stood in the small room at the left of the entrance hall, near the statue of Moses on the ground floor. This highly interesting relic and valued memento of our founder was one of the very few pieces of a museum nature which was removed to the new library. When the Society was established in 1812, there were no museums for ethnological, anthropological, and historical relics, but in later years the founding of the Smithsonian Institution and the Peabody Museum, not to mention the important local museum of the Worcester Historical Society, allowed the Antiquarian Society to devote its energies to the collecting of the printed and manuscript sources of American history.

In common with most institutions of our type, the Society possessed a great many plaster busts of statesmen and

authors, both American and European. Among these were busts of Hamilton, John Adams, Lincoln, Webster, Clay, Sparks, and Cyrus Hamlin, as well as of Milton, Catharine II, Potemkin, and other Europeans. These were only of plaster, reproduced by the hundred, and subject to deterioration. At the time of the removal to the new building the paint, and much of the plaster, had worn off, beyond repair, and they were destroyed. The marble busts of Washington, Franklin, Isaiah Thomas, John Davis, and Isaac Davis, were all preserved, also the two remarkable and rare wooden busts of Governor Winthrop and of Voltaire by the early Salem wood-carver, Samuel McIntire. The fine mosaic of Columbus, by Antonio Salviati, obtained by Edward L. Davis in Italy and presented by him to the Society in 1878, hung upon the north partition of the Annex. It came from the famous mosaic artist's studio at Murano, near Venice. When we moved to the new building, the mosaic was set in the plaster wall over the door of the present Council Room.

The staff, when I came to the Library in 1881, consisted of Edmund M. Barton, Librarian, Reuben Colton, Assistant Librarian, and myself as cataloguer. Mr. Colton left in 1889 to enter business in Worcester. Gradually through the years additional assistants were employed. Elizabeth M. Rice worked on shelf-lists in 1888-1890, Mary G. Whitcomb served in the cataloguing department from 1892 to 1909, Mary Goodwin from 1895 to 1898, and Christine Robinson from 1903 to 1907. John Booth was engaged as janitor in 1884 and was succeeded by Alexander S. Harris, a colored man, in 1900, and he by James E. Fenner in 1905. Eleanore Webb was engaged to arrange and list the manuscripts in 1885. After her short stay of two years the manuscripts received only general oversight until Charles H. Lincoln came to the Library in 1907, to remain for three years.

Mr. Barton served as Librarian until his retirement in 1908, at the time of the election of Clarence S. Brigham as his successor.

The manuscript collection was one of the most important features of the Society's possessions, but it was largely unarranged and unavailable for study and reference. In 1885 Miss Eleanore Webb of Norfolk, Virginia, a friend of the writer, was suggested as a capable person to undertake the task. Mr. Salisbury, after interviews with her, decided to have her visit the New York Historical Society and report upon their classification and arrangement of manuscripts. Since he was satisfied with the result of her investigations, she began work in January, 1885, under the immediate supervision of Mr. Colton and the Library Committee. The small room on the lower floor at the right of the entrance was fitted with drawers and shelves and became known as the Manuscript Room. During the time when she remained with the Society, the papers of Isaiah Thomas, Andrew Craigie, William Paine, William Bentley, and others were put in shape and made available, and a manuscript index of the more important collections and documents was made. After two years of service Miss Webb returned to her native Norfolk to marry Morris King of that city. Not until 1907 did the manuscripts collection have a custodian especially in charge. After the death of Mr. Salisbury and the subsequent benefit from his will, the funds were sufficient to admit giving more care to the manuscripts. Charles H. Lincoln, a graduate of Harvard in the Class of 1893, with a later Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and ten years' experience in the manuscripts division of the Library of Congress, was engaged to take charge of the Society's manuscripts in 1907. During his three years' stay he indexed and calendared the Isaiah Thomas, William Bentley, Christopher C. Baldwin, U. S. Revolution, and Worcester manu-

scripts, arranged many other collections, and indexed much of the vast mass of miscellaneous documentary material.

In those early days the collections extensively developed were genealogy and local history, although in the latter field New England books were chiefly acquired. The Civil War collection received especial attention and proved of much assistance to local researchers and to writers who were preparing regimental histories of the various states. Some of the officers who appreciated the use of the collection were General Augustus B. R. Sprague, General Josiah Pickett, Major Frederick G. Stiles, J. Brainerd Hall, and Charles M. Smith. Mr. Smith, of the First Massachusetts Cavalry, obtained much help from the library in preparing his famous lecture "From Andersonville to Freedom," which he delivered all over New England. The slavery collection was also notable, especially in the ephemeral pamphlet literature.

The collection of literary annuals, so popular between 1830 and the Civil War, was first studied, to my knowledge, by Annie Russell Marble at the time of her earliest literary efforts. Here she found many of the first productions of American writers. It was she who impressed upon the Society the importance of adding to the collection of annuals, which grew so amazingly in later years. The bibliography prepared by Frederick W. Faxon shows the magnitude of the Society's collection. Many of the collections for which the Library is now famous have been developed in the last thirty years.

The use of a Visitors' Register was first suggested in 1905 by G. Stanley Hall, a member of the Council and President of Clark University. The first name entered in the Register was that of Rosalie V. Halsey, well known authority on children's books and author of "Forgotten Books of the American Nursery." Hers is followed by a few other well known names—Waldo G. Leland, John Albree, and William

DeLoss Love. Then, under date of October 21, 1905, come the autographs of all the members at the annual meeting. The Visitors' Register has been studiously kept since 1905, and is made highly valuable by a card index of names and of subjects studied.

One of the privileges which I have enjoyed since the beginning of my service with the Library was the preparation of the indexes to the annual volumes of *Proceedings*. The first volume so indexed was the *Proceedings* for 1880-1881, Volume I of the new series. The last volume indexed by me was that for 1939, a period of nearly sixty years. What a vast series of important articles and papers I have carefully read to prepare these indexes!

During the half century following 1881 most of the leading historians of the country at one time or another visited the Library. The most impressive of such visitors was George Bancroft, then over eighty years old, with his white beard, slight figure, and searching eyes. He was Vice-president of the Society and read a paper on Alexander Hamilton as part of the Council Report in 1883. His visits to the Library, in search of material chiefly on Constitutional history, were usually made in the morning when he came on horseback, hitching the beautiful black steed to one of the stone hitching-posts in front of the building.

John Fiske was a frequent visitor to the Library in his studies on various philosophical topics and periods of American history. I distinctly remember the inspiration I received in rendering assistance to this powerful writer and scholar. John Bach McMaster received much help in his annual trips to the Library, largely from the newspaper collections, in the preparation of his *History of the People of the United States*. The second volume of the above work was delayed in publication by the loss of his manuscript which occurred during his transportation from the Library to the Union



Station to entrain for Philadelphia. Herbert B. Adams came regularly every summer to use the Library during his recess from Johns Hopkins University. His use of the early town records produced the "Tithingmen" and other papers for the *Proceedings* published by the Society. William Babcock Weeden's first published work for the Society was his carefully prepared historical document on the Early African Slave-Trade in New England. He did wide research work among the newspaper files and Colonial documents for his *Economic and Social History of New England*. All of these scholars were elected to membership in the Society in the eighties after I entered upon my long term of library service.

Charles Deane, one of the older members, was a constant visitor and was for many years a member of the Council. George H. Moore's long and thorough research among the documents of Massachusetts history produced a valuable work on witchcraft which appeared in the *Proceedings* for October, 1882. Justin Winsor used the Library extensively in compiling his invaluable *Narrative and Critical History of America*. Edward Channing's "Navigation Laws" required broad research during a long period and its publication appeared in the Society's *Proceedings*, 1889.

Of the many writers on New England history, I especially remember the following: James Hammond Trumbull, long a member of the Council, who worked among our manuscripts and Colonial histories on various topics relating to the Indians. He rendered valuable assistance in the preparation of the Lechford Note Book. His exhaustive papers which appear in the Society's publications were only an introduction to his larger efforts for the United States Bureau of American Ethnology. Among others were Franklin B. Dexter, whose careful statistical studies on the American Colonies covered a long series of explorations in the Library. His first printed work for the Society, in 1887, was "Esti-

mates of Population in the American Colonies." Lucius R. Paige wrote on early New England Indian affairs and compiled local histories. Henry Stedman Nourse was the authority on the Rowlandson narrative and the history of Lancaster, Massachusetts, the former requiring long research in a hitherto unexplored subject. Grindall Reynolds wrote on King Philip's War, with special reference to the attack on Brookfield in August, 1675. John Noble was an early student of Shays Rebellion, whose work appeared in the *Proceedings* for 1902. Anson D. Morse used the manuscripts in preparation of work on Shays Rebellion, a work begun by Mr. Leland, Chicago University Professor, who died before the completion of the compilation. Professor George E. Stone was a naturalist on the faculty of the Massachusetts Agricultural College who spent portions of his vacations delving into the Society's material on Colonial history for knowledge of herbs. John M. Tyler conducted research in the continuation of his father's history of Amherst, Massachusetts. My first recollection of assisting in the study of Noah Webster was because of his visits. Professor Tyler later wrote that when Noah Webster sold his house in New Haven and went to Amherst to complete his Dictionary, he found the schools there little better than those of average New England country towns. Webster, being a graduate of Yale College and a scholar and writer of national and international fame, had, his granddaughter declared, "a passion for education."

There were many ethnologists and archaeologists who visited the Library, largely because of Mr. Salisbury's encouragement of such researches. Philipp J. J. Valentini made numerous contributions on Yucatan and Mexico, many of which were translated from the German by Mr. Salisbury, who was inspired by the achievements of the great Maya scholar. Edward H. Thompson was employed by Mr. Salis-

bury for many years to make explorations in Mexico and Yucatan. The Labna Façade of the Temple, for which thirty chemicals were prepared before the proper casts were produced, was one of Mr. Thompson's notable contributions. Mr. Salisbury sponsored expeditions in Yucatan, in which country he became interested through a classmate at Harvard College, David Casares. Stephen D. Peet was most appreciative of the opportunity to use the volumes on early archaeological research in the American Colonies. He was a student of the western growth of the country, the Mound Builders of Wisconsin, and the earth works between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River. His studies, with those of Frederick W. Putnam, on singular groups of earth works, resulted in valuable contributions which were published by the Society. Frank H. Cushing made a memorable visit to the Library, accompanied by three prominent Zuni Indians who had come to the Atlantic Coast to gather water for their sacrificial services. The old governor of the tribe was wrapped in a blanket, and the two younger Indians wore blouses and ornaments of their own workmanship.

Although research by women was not so common many years ago as it is today, some of the most interesting visits were by women. Alice Morse Earle was among the women who best knew and appreciated the Library's treasures. Her use of the early works of the New England colonists and her examination of volumes upon volumes of American newspapers provided ample material for the many subjects which made up the valuable books which she published. Her varieties of eyeglasses required for the various printed materials gave one some realization of her industry and trial to eyesight strain. Miss Jennie Howard was one of the first American teachers to go to South America. She was later pensioned for life in recognition of her valuable service to South America. Annie Russell Marble was one student who

spent joyous hours in thorough search for material, as was evidenced in her *Heralds of American Literature*. Her bibliography in the volume gives some proof of her persistent studies of the authors, the Hartford Wits, and other early American writers. Her pursuit in the early American newspapers provided her with material on Joseph Dennie, Philip Freneau, and William Dunlap. Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe made a memorable visit to the Library with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher. To meet the author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was a thrilling experience and will ever remain in mind for many reasons. Mrs. Beecher's enthusiasm in being introduced to certain collections of literature was inspiring. She remarked that she was writing for the *Youth's Companion* an incident in her life which she named "Trust the Children." She said that at one time she was permitted as a girl to ride on horseback to the distant town of Worcester to buy cloth for the tailor who was coming on vacation days to the house to make clothes for an elder brother during his vacation from Amherst College. She said that one of the happiest experiences of her life was to have been entrusted thus to serve the family.

Local writers were constant visitors to the Society. Dr. George Chandler, like George Bancroft, was another of Worcester's scholars who came to the Library on horseback. He was so intent upon the subject of his research, the genealogy of his family, that it was seldom he took time for social contacts. What with his professional practice, the time given to this avocation of genealogy was jealously guarded. His regular approach to the desired collections of material was directly to the gallery, along which he proceeded, the entire length of the building, to the alcove of Genealogy. Nathaniel Paine, long Treasurer of the Society and guardian of its interests, made many valuable contributions to the *Proceedings* on early paper currency in Massa-

chusetts, banking in New England, and broadsides. He was an indefatigable student of early manuscripts pertaining to various branches of New England history. George F. Hoar employed George S. Taft, when an undergraduate at Harvard College, and subsequently, in preparation of studies relating to United States documentary material. He was desirous that the Society should obtain the English Parish Registers which he considered of great importance in historical and genealogical study. And it was he who was instrumental in securing the return to America of the manuscript of the Bradford Journal. John D. Washburn, scholar and writer of many Council Reports, was constantly in the Library. He once said that what the Society needed was a gift of money devoted to no specific purpose, with only the general stipulation that it be devoted to the purchase of books. The Reverend Charles M. Lamson greatly appreciated the privileges granted to him by his membership in the Society. And I often thought he might be interested to see if one of his parishioners was proving acceptable in the position he had proposed to Mr. Salisbury in 1881. Charles A. Smith, one of Worcester's citizens and a Captain in the Civil War, found deep enjoyment in his studies at the Library. His health was greatly impaired by imprisonment in Andersonville prison. His escape caused serious difficulties and dangers which required years for recovery from exposures experienced. He deposited at the Library an illustration of the Prison stockade which has been of great interest to the veterans of the Civil War. J. Brainerd Hall, another officer to use our War Records, spent the greater part of his days after his return from the War, searching the Society's various State records of the War of the Rebellion. After his appointment to the office of Pension Agent he was a regular searcher of War records and newspapers of the period of the Rebellion. Alfred S. Roe, one of the teachers, and later the

principal, of the Worcester Classical High School, was most appreciative of all privileges granted him for research along various educational lines. His printed works were always presented to the Library. We acquired after his death a number of bound volumes of obituary clippings which we later indexed. Daniel Kent, Register of Deeds at the Court House next door, was among the accustomed visitors to the Library. His one great interest was the early Colonial records of Deerfield, Massachusetts. A remark made by him is vividly recalled: "I will not give up until I find an ancestor who was killed in the Indian Wars." And there is now recorded on the tall granite shaft commemorative of the Bloody Brook fight, in the vicinity of Deerfield, the name of his ancestor. Benjamin Thomas Hill, long known as the Worcester antiquary, began during his life as a student at Harvard the copy of the Diary of Christopher Columbus Baldwin which was published in the *Transactions* of the Society in 1901. His annotations to the Diary of Isaiah Thomas constituted one of his most valued contributions to the Society's publications.

In this brief record of visits to the Library by scholars and writers, many whom I can recall have been omitted. In a period of fifty years hundreds of visitors came to Worcester for serious research, constituting almost a roster of historical scholarship. Most of the members, at one time or another, visited the Library. Of the 135 members who belonged to the Society in September 1881, all have long since passed away, the last being Franklin B. Dexter, who died in 1920.

As I look back over my long service, I can never forget the remark made to me by Herbert B. Adams, the well known historian of Johns Hopkins and a cousin of my father, at the very beginning of my career: "Next to knowing a thing is to know where to find it." It was this advice that

gave to me the incentive to familiarize myself with the vast collection of source material so readily available in the Library. No greater stimulus to achievement could have been given in the great endeavor to live, to learn, to serve. I have spent my working hours practically in one place. In my early years of service I was taught not to discriminate between the high and the low, the American and the foreign born, the scholarly and the uneducated. This life experience of sixty years in the Library of the Antiquarian Society has been a succession of interesting happenings and of meetings with many of the historical scholars of the past. How great is the occasion for rejoicing to look back over all those years from the heights of experience. Today I can feel only the greatest happiness for having lived in such surroundings, and to be privileged to write, however imperfectly, my recollections of sixty years of service.

MARY ROBINSON REYNOLDS

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