WORCESTER COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

that mariners can cut down 50% and get a better result by combining manure with fertilizer. Some crops respond well to extra nitrogen.

A plot of Washington asparagus containing 1,001 plants, with the rows lettered and the plants numbered, was observed for three years and individual plant records kept. During the cutting two men recorded the behavior of the plants daily. Great variation was found in this high-grade, uniform stock. Some plants produced 12,000 pounds to an acre. So far as known, no such record has ever been made before.

An attempt is being made to bring about a uniformity of nomenclature. Professor Norton says there are only three or four kinds of asparagus, but that different names are used for the same variety. The variety name today means nothing. Soon names will be standardized, and photographs will be furnished to prove each variety.

The possibility of greater consumption of vegetables by the public at large is being considered. For $60,000 a year quite a campaign could be carried on here. For this purpose some special agent who knows the subject and not a mere advertising agent, is necessary. Posters, circulars and the like would prove very beneficial.

After a question is solved by the Supreme Court, it is possible that the Experiment Station may sell its present quarters and move to the tract of land in Waltham which has been offered to the State absolutely free. This has an assessed value of $60,000 and is superior to the present station in every way.

On August 8 the Field Day of the Experiment Station is to be held, and it is hoped that a large representation will meet there.

FEBRUARY 22, 1923
Lecture.—"The History of the Worcester County Horticultural Society"

By Miss Frances C. Morse

Before starting to consider the portraits in Horticultural Hall a slight sketch of the early days of the Society will add to the interest of those men, especially those who not only made the Horticultural Society, but who had a large share in the building of Worcester.

In 1840 Worcester was a small place of 3,000 inhabitants. As land was plentiful almost every house had a garden. Nearly all the descriptions of the houses on Main Street speak of trees and flowers in the front and a fruit garden in the rear.

I fancy that the originators of the Worcester Society were inspired by the success of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, started in 1819, and by the Worcester Agricultural Society, formed the same year. The list of members of the latter and the officers during its twenty-one years preceding this Society, contains many of the same names which figure in our early record. Levi Lincoln, senior, was the first president; and others were Emery W hite, William Lincoln, Charles Allen, Stephen Salisbury—all of these names were also among our early contributors.

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The Agricultural Society had an Annual Fair, held upon the Common, and it ended with the great social event of the year, the Castle Show Hall. Our first exhibition was held during the Agricultural Fair, and it would seem from the records for several years that there was some feeling between the two societies, for the secretaries' reports are not always amiable in regard to the older society. This ended when the Annual Horticultural Show, afterwards held in Mechanics Hall, was given up for the weekly exhibits in our own hall.

William Lincoln's portrait is not upon these walls, but, although he lived only two years after the formation of this Society, we owe much to him. He was the son of Levi Lincoln and Martha Waldo the nephew of Daniel Waldo, and the uncle of D. Waldo Lincoln and Edward Waldo Lincoln. He lived on the Lincoln farm on Lincoln Street, in the house built by Thomas Hancock, and left to his nephews John Hancock. This building was moved from its site when Mr. Moss built his house there, and now stands on the corner of Grove and Lexington Streets. In this house lived William Lincoln, and there he carried on the farm, and raised fruits and flowers. He was a man of wit and a trained writer. At one time he was editor of the Appeal, afterwards the News. He was an officer of the Agricultural Society and his witty reports of the shows were famous. It is said that for one Agricultural Show he searched the country for a committee to judge the pigs, and when assembled the members all bore the same name—Bacon. It was during his office as editor of the Appeal that this Society was first planned. William Lincoln wrote a history of Worcester up to 1828, which is of great value; and had he lived, the work he had started would have added greatly to the historical records of our city.

The earliest record of transactions of the Society was printed in 1847, and it is due to George Jaques that the records were preserved and printed. He calls it "A Brief Account of the Origin of the Society," and upon the title page is a quotation from the best seller of the day, Martin Farquhar Tupper's "Proverbial Philosophy," said to be a favorite book with Mr. Jaques. The quotation ends "and the smallest weed of the garden serves its many uses," proof conclusive that Tupper was no gardener. Mr. Jaques, after what he calls "Preliminary Observations," in the rather stilted and flowery language of eighty years ago, tells how a few gentlemen met in September, 1840, and chose as president, Dr. John Green; vice-president, Dr. S. B. Woodward and Stephen Salisbury; recording secretaries, Benjamin Heywood, L. L. Newton, and J. C. Bancroft Davis; corresponding secretaries, William Lincoln and Dr. Joseph Sargeant. Committees were appointed—notably, one to arrange for an Exhibition of Fruits, Flowers, Vegetables and Paintings, on the same day as the Agricultural Show. This was carried out, and the two-days' exhibition was a great success. Mr. Jaques closes his "Preliminary observations" thus: "A large number of gentlemen (would that we could add ladies) became members." This soulful wish was fulfilled, for in a few years the list of flower exhibitors was largely ladies, who exhibited bouquets, designs, bassets and vases.

The Society was incorporated in 1842. In 1559 its funds amounted, with a bequest of $8,000 from Daniel Waldo, to $15,150. Courage and faith must
have upheld the members, for they bought this lot of land on Front Street for $6,647, and erected this building, costing $1,278, a total of $8,125. A committee of seven gentlemen took a mortgage of $12,000. The rents at that time amounted to $1,600, from which was paid interest, taxes, and other expenses, not leaving much for profits. It was not until 1871, thirty years later, that the Society was entirely free from debt.

The start of the building fund was the bequest of $8,000, left by Daniel Waldo in 1845. He was born in Boston in 1788, but lived in Worcester nearly all of his life, at first with his father, Daniel Waldo, in the house at the corner of Belmont Street and Lincoln Square, afterwards used for years as a hotel. In 1806 he built his brick dwelling on Main Street where the Exchange Building now stands; and in 1823 he built the next but one mansion afterwards moved back upon Waldo Street, when Mechanics Hall was built. This mansion has passed through many vicissitudes, from hotel to lodging house, and now presents a pathetically sight. In 1860 it stood on Main Street with a fine garden in the rear, on and in it dwelt Daniel Waldo with his two sisters, all unmarried. He was the chief merchant of his day in Worcester. His store was the one now occupied by Elwood Adams, and it has, from the first, had the same business in it. Daniel Waldo's father built the block, known as Granite Row, the second brick business block in Worcester. Father and son had a hardware store there, later the son, and later still Henry W. Miller, his apprentice, whom he took in with him; then Elwood Adams, and his son. About twenty-five years ago I bought a number of boxes of old brass handles which had been in that store ever since the days of Daniel Waldo. He lived to eighty-two years of age, his sister surviving him. He left in public the sum of $1,750,000, large even for those days. There are no members of his family by that name in this country, but the name is perpetuated through the descendants of the one married sister, Mrs. Levi Lincoln.

Levi Lincoln, 2nd, was born in 1782, the son of Levi Lincoln and his wife, Martha Waldo. He was the brother of William Lincoln, and the father of Daniel Waldo Lincoln and Edward Winslow Lincoln. He was Mayor of Worcester, Representative in Congress, and Governor of Massachusetts, besides holding other public offices. He built, in 1839, the mansion on Main Street, which stood where the Lincoln House block was between Elm and Maple Streets, and lived there until 1856, when Elm Street was cut through his garden, and the mansion turned into a hotel. Mr. Lincoln had built the house upon Elm Street, familiar to us all, and he lived there until his death in 1868, at eighty-six years of age.

The first president of the Horticultural Society was Dr. John Green. He is known, so all as the founder and benefactor of the Free Public Library. He was born in 1798 in his father's house, still standing on Green Hill. He was the third Dr. John Green here, and the fourth Dr. Green to practice in continuous line in Worcester, for a space of time covering 138 years. His office was in a small wooden house adjoining the block built by his father, and afterwards bought and occupied by Dr. Nichols, whose daughters still (in 1892) live in the upper floor. It was in the attic over Dr. Green's office that this

Society had its birth, when Dr. Green, William Lincoln and Clarendon Harris met there. This block is across Main Street from Central. In the next block to it lived Samuel Brazer, and later, William Dickenson. When I was a little girl I used to play in the terraced garden in the rear. I presume Dr. Green had a terraced garden, also, where he grew flowers and fruits. As a physician he was beloved by all, and his kindly nature speaks from his portrait and from his statue in the Free Public Library. His earlier portraits have a quizzical expression, and I am sure he was fond of a joke, as is proved by his book-plate, which must have been jocularly made. The only one in existence is at the American Antiquarian Society, so it could not have been used by him extensively. The frame is of wood and hagglers, and in the center is his name: "Dr. John Green, Physician, Dentist, Surgeon, Apothecary & Man Midwife." These sentiments appear at the sides:

"Tis by our Art and that alone
That Death enjoys his narrow bane;
We are all partners in the Murdering Art
Death twangs the bow, while Dye point the dart.
Physicists are, as facts can tell
The allied friends of Death and Hell."

The epigram shown in these lines could not have been Dr. Green's habitual attitude, for Judge Thomas said of him, "His name was a household word. Not to have seen him was, under that brown, broad-brimmed soft hat, he rolled from side to side in that old time-honored set, through the streets of the village, town and city, was to have missed one of the most striking institutions of Worcester."

Clarendon Harris was one of the originators of this Society. He kept a bookstore in Dr. Green's building. He was a great flower lover, and in his garden on Elm Street he had all sorts of lovely flowers. His house was between the houses of Peter C. Bacon and Charles F. Washburn, on the site covered by the brick residence of Mrs. Charles F. Washburn. The first village directory was published in Worcester in 1839 by Clarendon Harris.

After the resignation of Dr. John Green, Isaac Davis became president, and served from 1844 to 1848. He studied law in the office of his uncle, Governor John Davis, and amassed a fortune by his ability in his profession. He lived in the house on the north corner of Bancroft Place, the house now standing upon Piedmont Street, where it was moved when the block owned by Mac-Intire's large store was built. It is a fine house even now, with pillars reaching above the second story. It stood well back from Main Street, and in front was a garden with a fountain, at that time considered the acme of desirability in a garden. In the rear were greenhouses and fruit trees. A number of times in the Society's reports are entries of oranges and lemons grown by Isaac Davis. In one it says that the fruit was eaten and pronounced good. He also showed the large orange and lemon trees. Mr. Davis was prominent in the early life of Worcester as a city; he was its mayor during the war, and as such did his share in looking after the soldiers and their families. He had nine children
who lived to be married, but not one of his descendants now lives in Worcester. When he sold the house and land on Main street he built the large brick house now occupied by the Worcester Club, to whom it was sold by his heirs. He died in 1888, eighty-four years of age.

John Milton Earle was born and educated in Leicester, his father being a manufacturer there. He came to Worcester, and with Anthony Chase opened a grocery store on the corner of Main and Thomas Streets. His whole interest was literary, however, and in 1823 he and his partner took the Massachusetts Spy to publish. Later, Samuel H. Colton was in company with him, and for a short time, Thomas Drew, until 1853, when it was taken over by John D. Baldwin. John Milton Earle had been editor of the paper for nearly forty years. He lived on what was known as Nobility Hill, in the second house south of Chatham Street. I think that house is still standing on Largrune Street. In the rear was his garden, extending to High Street, where he raised the wonderful pears shown at the Society meetings. It may surprise some to hear that the list of pears in 1850 was practically the same as now: Seckel, Bartlett, Louise Bonne de Jery, Flemish Beauty, Beurre Bosc, Lawrence, Veins of Winkfield, Nalls, Sheldon. At the annual exhibition in 1850 there were 1,200 plates of beautiful fruit, all balled. There were 400 plates of peaches, more of apples, and 20 varieties of pears shown. The president, Mr. Earle, showed 47 varieties of pears, and D. Waldo Lincoln, 65. Mr. Earle was awarded the first premium. The chief flavor at this show, as at previous ones, was the dapple, thirty varieties coming from one exhibit. The first premium was given to William T. Meredith. Mr. Earle imported new varieties of fruit and flowers, and he also gathered several, one highly prized being Earle’s Beggadot pear. Mr. Earle died in 1871. His only descendant now living in Worcester is Miss Jessie Lee Southwick.

In connection with John Milton Earle, I will speak of some early members who were prominent. Anthony Chase married the sister of Mr. Earle, and was associated with him in business and in the Massachusetts Spy. He was a Quaker, as was Samuel H. Colton, Mr. Chase lived on Nobility Hill, in a large brick house on the northern corner of Chatham Street. My earliest recollections are of going down Chatham Street past the Chase front yard, filled with daisies and buttercups, to go to church twice on Sunday.

Mr. Colton had a nursery running back from the corner of Austin Street. The house which my father built in 1844 is upon land bought from Mr. Colton’s nursery; and the trees around my house were planted by him. He lived in the house on Queen Street, afterwards used as a nursery home in connection with the City Hospital, the Colton estate having being bought by the city.

Mr. Colton was a constant exhibitor of fruit, showing in 1850, 37 varieties of pears, 25 of apples, 23 of peaches, and 12 of plums. Bartlett pears were shown that year by Miss Sarah Waldo, so there must have been a garden with the Waldo house.

The long life of Stephen Salisbury, 3rd, brought him down so late that many of us can remember him well. He was born in the old Salisbury Mansion at the head of Lincolns Square, in 1796. His mother lived here after the founding of this Society in 1840, for one of the early reports speaks of some baskets of pears “from the fairy grounds of Mrs. Salisbury,” and then come stars where the report of the committee was cut. Then, “A basket of apples, called Magnut Bonum, came from the same sweet country.” How I wish the probablyifulsome report had come down to us with some description of those ‘fairy grounds’! Mr. Salisbury built the house on Highland Street at the end of Harvard, where he lived and died. He had five greenhouses, cared for by the father of Miss Cordelia, our librarian. His pear orchard still extends down to Lincoln Square, with doubts many of his trees standing there. The competition in pears, and the interest in them, seemed greater then in any other one direction during these early years. Mr. Salisbury was president at the time that this building was erected, and was one of the committee who loaned the money for it. Later, he was a generous contributor toward paying the debt. He died in 1864, at eighty-seven years of age.

Among the reports in 1854 is one of two exhibitors by Moses Ruggles, of Harvard, and W. H. Henry, of Grafton, of grape wine, both from the juice of native grapes. It says: “After tasting, watching, and taste again, the committee gave the premium of $1 to Mr. Henry.” I wonder how much was left? Also, “Most excellent currant wine was submitted to the testing power of the committee by Mr. Joseph Lovell, Jr., of Worcester, and they recommended a gratuity of $1” (here notice Solomon! “not to Mr. Lovell, but to his wife, the excellent Mrs. Lovell, who made the wine.”)

In 1856 the exhibitors showed wine, and Curtis Forbush of Grafton showed a large variety: Isabella grape, native grape, Snoopy raisins, quinces, wild cherry, alderberry, and cranberry. If the committee tasted all of these, tasted again, and tasted again, one cannot help wondering what was the result. These exhibitions of wine occur quite frequently in those good old days.

Daniel Waldo Lincoln, the fifth president, was the son of Levi Lincoln, 2nd, and Martha Waldo. He was born on the Lincoln farm. He graduated at Harvard in 1831, and became a lawyer, but he was a horticulturist above all. He had a farm on Pleasant Street beyond Merrick, where he grew over 100 varieties of pears and fruits of all sorts, as well as flowers. He secured and exhibited at his farm a specimen of the Victoria Regia lily, from Africa, creating great interest. He lived on Ashland Street, but after his father's death he took the Elm Street house, where he lived until his death in a railroad accident.

He was the brother of Edward Winslow Lincoln, the secretary of the Society from 1861 to 1866, with the exception of one year. Edward Winslow Lincoln had been employed in newspaper work before he became the secretary, and the trained writer is visible in his annual reports which were the feature of the publication, full of wit, biting and fearless, sometimes too much so. In reading over these reports it is astonishing how fresh each year, Mr. Lincoln came to his task. He was the unifying enemy of the robin and assailed him without much success, but unapologetically. He was always at his task for the weekly exhibits, and always interested. It is to him that we owe one of our too few parks, Elm Park, and it was through his efforts that Newton Hill was
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bought by the city, and preserved for us. The city owes him much, and we in the Horticultural Society who remember him realise what he meant to the Society. Mr. Lincoln lived on Oak Street in the house which was burned a few weeks ago, then occupied by Mr. Sessions. Edward Winslow Lincoln was the fourth member of this family to show a keen and active interest in this Society. His uncle, William Lincoln, was also a member. He became later Edward Winslow Lincoln, the father of Daniel Waldo Lincoln and of Edward Winslow Lincoln. Thus, for a period of fifty-six years the name was actively associated with the Horticultural Society.

The sixth president, Alexander H. Bullock, was born in Royaloak in 1836. He studied law, and practiced for some years, but his main interest was insurance. He was an eloquent speaker and well fitted for the public life which he entered in 1845. He was speaker of the House of Representatives in Boston during the Civil War. In 1865 he was elected Governor of the state, an office which he held for three years. The success of the State Mutual Life Assurance Company is largely due to him. He was for thirty years, an office, which, after his death, was filled by his son, Col. A.H. George Bullock, who lives in his father's house on Elm Street.

To George Jacques, the seventh president, we owe the preservation and collecting of our early records, and the printing of them. He was born in Connecticut, but in 1833 his father, Abel Jacques, bought a part of the Chandler farm, owned by two Chandler brothers (not connected with the large family of that name). Chandler street was cut through their land, named for them. The Jacques farm started at the junction of Chandler and Wellington Streets. Mr. Jacques lived there and had his nursery, where he advertised plants and trees for sale. He never married. He left his farm and the bulk of his property, over $200,000, to found the City Hospital. He had already given to this cause $55,000, and three and one-half acres of land on Priscus Street, the same of which was changed to Jacques Avenue. He died in 1872. He was an enthusiastic gardener. After his death he left this farm to Clark University, and the house is now occupied by members of the faculty. In 1837 the new house was built by the Society. It was passed over by the Society.

Dr. George E. Francis was president from 1872 to 1874. For many years he held various offices in the Society. From the time he came to Worcester, in 1856, he was an interested and active member. Dr. Francis was born in Lovell in 1838. He was a surgeon in the United States Navy during the Civil War. At the close of the war he came to Worcester, where he practiced for nearly forty years. He made a study of mushrooms and started a Mycological Club, and the offering of premiums for mushrooms. He died in 1892, aged seventy-four years. He was a member of the Society since 1857, and the Society held a banquet in his honor on July 5th of that year. He was a member of the Society for over fifty years, and during that time he was a constant exhibitor of fruits and flowers. He was a member of the Society of Friends, like his father and mother, and who as a boy in the Friends Meeting House on Thursday and Sunday, Mr. Hadwen died in 1867. He gave to the city a lovely park, named for him, full of beautiful trees, which are the mementos he leaves to perpetuate his memory.

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Moore Co., a position which he occupied until his death in 1887, at sixty-six years of age. He was a graduate of Williams College, as are his three sons. Judge Dewey lived in the large house on the corner of Chestnut and Cedar Streets, facing Walnut Street. He had a fine garden which was full of fruit trees and flowers, specimens of which Judge Dewey exhibited through many years. This house is now occupied by his youngest son, John C. Dewey.

George W. Richardson was president for one year, 1871-72, but for many years before then both he and his wife had been exhibitors. He lived on Elm Street in the house bought by Jonas Clark, and now owned by the Ellis Society. The beautiful magnolia tree which he set out is still there, and many of the gardens pleasant.

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Obadiah Brown Hadwen was president in 1876-77, and also from 1896 to 1897. He was born in Providence, and was educated at the Friends' Academy there. His father, also Obadiah Hadwen, had a farm on Hadwen Lane, which is now covered with houses. The son lived on Lovell Street on a beautiful farm planted by him with trees and shrubs of every sort. The trees are now gone, but the shrubs remain. At his death he left this farm to Clark University, and the house is now occupied by members of the faculty. Mr. Hadwen was a member of the Society for over fifty years, and during that time he was a constant exhibitor of fruits and flowers. He was a member of the Society of Friends, like his father and mother, and who, as a boy, was brought up to see the friends and to come in and help themselves. He constantly visited the schools and took a kindly interest in the scholars.

The next president, J. Henry Hill, was born in Northwestern, this side of Tennessee, in 1858. He studied law with Benjamin P. Thomas, and was afterwards his partner. Later he was a partner of George P. Howard, but after that he practiced his profession alone until his son joined him. He lived on the corner of Salisbury and Boyton Streets, and his place was full of trees and shrubs which he planted. He was a great breeder, and a steady exhibitor at the weekly shows of the Society. His place was bought after his death, and added to the grounds of the Polytechnic Institute, the house being demolished. He died in 1890, aged seventy-two years.

Francis R. Dewey was the president of this Society from 1867 to 1871, and later, from 1891 to 1897. He was born in Williamsstown in 1822. He, his father, and grandfather were all judges. He became a judge in the Superior Court, resigning in 1881 to become the counsel for the Washburn and
present residence of his daughter, Mrs. William T. Forbes. Many of the trees he planted are still standing there, notably, one superb copper beech. His greenhouses and garden were at the foot of the hill on Highland Street, and his farm surrounded the house. Several streets have been made through the land, which is covered with buildings now.

The sixteenth president of this Society was Henry L. Parker, who served from 1888 to 1895. He was born in Athol in 1833. He graduated from Dartmouth College. The large part of his life, forty-five years, was passed in Worcester in the practice of the law. He was a fruit grower, and his name appears in many of the reports as exhibitor. In March, 1851, a scholarly and interesting paper on "Aesthetics of Rural Culture" was read by Mr. Parker before this Society. It is a paper well worth having again. It gives flower legends, and tales of ancient Egyptian and Roman gardens, then of the Italian, French and Dutch. It was during the term of Mr. Parker, and due to his efforts, combined with the bidding pen of Edward Winslow Lincoln, that the tax upon our property was lowered one-half—very properly, as we are surely an educational institution.

Dr. William Workman was an early and faithful member, exhibiting fruit and flowers from his garden on Elm Street. The house is now occupied by Dr. Parker. Dr. Workman was born in 1798, and from the time he came to Worcester until his death in 1855, a period of fifty years, he practiced here. His son, also Dr. William Workman, married a daughter of Alexander H. Bullock, and together they have spent many years in mountain climbing, winning a world-wide reputation for their achievements.

Frederic W. Paine was one of the incorporators of this Society and its treasurer for many years. He was born in 1788 in Salem, where his father lived after returning from Savannah as a Tory. In 1796 the family returned to Worcester, and lived at the Oak, the family place, now owned by the Timothy Bigelow Chapter of the D. A. R. One can but think how impressive this would be to the Tory Paine. F. W. Paine travelled for several years, then finally settled down at the Oak, where he had a beautiful garden. He died in 1849, eighty-two years of age.

Benjamin Putnam was one of the early members of this Society. He lived at one time in the Garden Chandler house, afterward occupied by Judge Ira Barton, across Barton Place from the Isaac Davis house, on the site of the Taylor Building. He was born in 1787 in Worcester, but started his mercantile life as a clerk in the drug-store of George Britton, in Boston. In 1816 he was a dealer in West India goods in W. Worcester. After twenty years he retired from that business, and built several blocks here, Bradley Block being one, on the site of the present Slater Building. He made a fortune in real estate, buying in 1812 forty-five acres of land bounded by Main, Pleasant, Newbury and Chandler Streets, for $7,500. He died in 1872, at eighty-five years of age, in his home on May Street, now occupied by Henry Harmon Chamberlain.

Benjamin F. Thomas was born in Worcester in 1813 and died in 1878. He was the grandson of the first Isaiah Thomas, who read the Declaration of Independence from the Old South porch. Benjamin F. Thomas studied law and practiced in Worcester for some years. He was judge of the Probate Court, but resigned in 1850 to practice law in Boston. He was a flower lover and a faithful member of this Society. He wrote in 1874: "With all the growth of Worcester in wealth and culture there are no such gardens now as were those of Edward Dillingham Bangs, of William Lincoln, and of Frederick W. Paine." Mr. Bangs lived next door to the house of Mr. Thomas' mother, "just south of the lane leading to the Court Mill. The garden extended over the brook to Summer Street. With its shady walks, its fish pond, its lovely waterfall, its flowers, native and exotic, it seemed an Eden of beauty." Judge Thomas married the daughter of Mr. Bangs.

George F. Hoar was born in 1826 in Concord, Massachusetts. He was descended from the brother of Leonard Hoar, the first president of Harvard College—not as some biographies state, from Leonard Hoar, who never married. My father was also descended, through his mother, from the same brother of Leonard Hoar. George F. Hoar's mother was the daughter of Roger Sherman of Connecticut, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and a United States Senator. His father was Samuel Hoar, an eminent lawyer. George F. Hoar was a lawyer and practiced in Worcester, rising by his ability to the highest rank in his profession. In 1869 he entered politics, at the age of twenty-three, and he progressed rapidly, until in 1886 he was, at forty-two years of age, elected Representative in Congress. He took his seat in 1877 in the United States Senate, where he served for twenty-seven years. He was tendered the ambassadorship to England by President McKinley, but declined. Although most of his time was passed in Washington, he was always active in Worcester interests. His house on Oak Avenue was his delight upon his return from Congress. He died in 1904. His daughter now lives in the Oak Avenue home. Mr. Hoar was an enthusiastic fruit lover and a frequent exhibitor at the exhibition of fruit, the great horticultural hobby of the time. He was a nature lover. Twice when taking the ride with him to the meeting of the Rufus Putnam Association at Rutland (which, by the way, he formed), I was surprised at his knowledge of birds and flowers. His memory was extraordinary, and he could quote pages of poetry on any subject without any preparation.

Joseph C. Ripley was an early member and exhibitor. He lived on Main Street on the site afterwards built upon by Joseph Walter, and now owned by the Parochial School. Ripley Street was cut through his land. When Mr. Ripley lived there, along the front were immense maple trees, and long avenue of these great trees led up in his house. He died in 1839.

Thomas Chamberlain was a well-known farmer, living in the old Chamberlain house in the Chamberlain district, now Salisbury Street. He was sheriff for years, and his son, General Chamberlain, also held that office. Mr. Chamberlain was an early exhibitor here, of the fruit and vegetables from his farm. He died in 1880, aged seventy-two years.
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Dr. William Workman was an early and faithful member, exhibiting fruit and flowers from his garden on Elm Street. The house is now occupied by Dr. Fisher. Dr. Workman was born in 1798, and from the time he came to Worcester until his death in 1855, a period of fifty years, he practiced here. His son, also Dr. William Workman, married a daughter of Alexander H. Bullock, and together they have spent many years in mountain climbing, winning a world-wide reputation for their achievements.

Frederic W. Paine was one of the incorporators of this Society and its treasurer for many years. He was born in 1835 in Salem, where his father lived after returning from penitentiary as a Tory. In 1845 the family returned to Worcester, and lived at the Oak, the family place, now owned by the Trustees of the Beverly, Chapter of the D. A. R. One can but think how depressing this would be to the Tory Paines. P. W. Paine traveled for several years, then finally settled down at the Oak, where he had a beautiful garden. He died in 1868, eighty-two years of age.

Benjamin Putnam was one of the early members of this Society. He lived at one time in the Garden Club house, afterwards occupied by Justin Ives Barton, across Barton Place from the Isaac Davis house, on the site of the Taylor Building. He was born in 1824 in Worcester, but started his mercantile life as a clerk in the drug-store of George Bean, in Boston. In 1836 he was a dealer in West India goods in Worcester. After twenty years he retired from that business, and built four blocks here, Brinley Block being one, on the site of the present Slater Building. He made a fortune in real estate, buying in 1842 forty-five acres of land bounded by Main, Pleasant, Newbury and Chandler Streets, for $7,000. He died in 1872, at eighty-five years of age, in his home on May Street, now occupied by Henry Harmon Chamberlain.

Benjamin F. Thomas was born in Worcester in 1813 and died in 1878. He was the grandson of the first Isaiah Thomas, who read the Declaration of Independence from the Old South porch. Benjamin F. Thomas studied law and practiced in Worcester for some years. He was judge of the Probate Court, but resigned in 1860 to practice law in Boston. He was a flower lover and a faithful member of this Society. He wrote in 1874: "With all the growth of Worcester in wealth and culture there are no such gardens now as were those of Edward Dillingham Bangs, of William Lincoln, and of Frederic W. Paine." Mr. Bangs lived next door to the house of Mr. Thomas' mother, "just north of the lane leading to the Court Mill. The garden extended over the brook to Summer Street. With its shady walks, its fish pond, its lovely waterfall, its flowers, native and exotic, it seemed an Eden of beauty." Judge Thomas married the daughter of Mr. Bangs.

George F. Hoar was born in 1826 in Concord, Massachusetts. He was descended from the brother of Leonard Hoar, the first president of Harvard College—not as some biographies state, from Leonard Hoar, who never married. My father was also descended, through his mother, from the same brother of Leonard Hoar. George F. Hoar's mother was the daughter of Roger Sherman of Connecticut, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and a United States Senator. His father was Samuel Hoar, an eminent lawyer. George F. Hoar was a lawyer and practiced in Worcester, rising by his ability to the highest rank in his profession. In 1846 he entered politics, at the age of twenty-three, and he progressed rapidly, until in 1866 he was, at forty-two years of age, elected Representative in Congress. He took his seat in 1877 in the United States Senate, where he served for twenty-seven years. He was termed the ambassador to England by President McKinley, but declined. Although now of his time was passed in Washington, he was always active in Worcester interests. His house on Oak Avenue was his delight upon his return from Congress. He died in 1916. His daughter now lives in the Oak Avenue house. Mr. Hoar was an enthusiastic fruit grower and a frequent exhibitor of peases, the great horticultural hobby of the time. He was a nature lover. Twice when taking the ride with him to the meeting of the Rosary Peterman Association at Rutland (which, by the way, he formed), I was surprised at his knowledge of birds and flowers. His memory was extraordinary, and he could quote pages of poetry on any subject without any preparation.

Joseph C. Ripley was an early member and exhibitor. He lived on Main Street on the site afterwards built upon by Joseph Walker, and now owned by the Parochial School. Ripley Street was cut through his land. When Mr. Ripley lived there, along the front were immense maple trees, and a long avenue of these great trees led up to his house. He died in 1856.

Thomas Chamberlain was an early farmer, living in the old Chamberlain house in the Chamberlain district, now Salisbury Street. He was sheriff for years, and his son, General Chamberlain, also held that office. Mr. Chamberlain was an early exhibitor here, of the fruit and vegetables from his farm. He died in 1856, aged seventy-two years.