



Keene's
Revolutionary
Soldiers

AND THE HOUSE WHENCE THEY STARTED
FOR LEXINGTON



Commemorative Tablet

ERECTED APRIL 21, 1897

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Exercises Commemorative of April 21, 1775

At Keene, New Hampshire

Held by

Ashuelot Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution

APRIL 21, 1897

Keene's Revolutionary Soldiers

AND THE HOUSE WHENCE THEY STARTED FOR
LEXINGTON



A NOTABLE gathering took place on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 21, 1897, at the house of Mrs. Susan King Perkins, 339 Main street, Keene, New Hampshire, when Ashuelot Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, unveiled with suitable exercises, a tablet of blue slate stone, twenty-four inches in height and twenty inches in width, which the Chapter had caused to be placed upon the northeast front of the historic dwelling, bearing the following inscription:

BVILT—1750.
Thirty men set forth from
This house at sunrise,
April 21, 1775,
For Lexington, to fight for
Ovr Independence. This tablet
Is erected by ye Ashvelot
Chapter, Daughters of ye
American Revoltion,
APRIL—1897.

The tablet was unveiled about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, in the presence of a company of not far from two hundred ladies and gentlemen, members of Ashuelot Chapter and their friends, who assembled upon the lawn while the exercises were taking place.

The *Keene Evening Sentinel* of that day contains in its account of the exercises, the following description of the house and gathering:

The house of Mrs. Perkins, which was for many years the home of Dr. Z. S. Barstow, the famous pastor of the First Congregational church, was in Colonial days the tavern of Capt. Isaac Wyman of Revolutionary fame. Hence the assembling of the patriots of 1775 within its walls, early on the morning of April 21, to start for Lexington. The old house retains many of its ancient characteristics today, although in some respects remodeled. The entrance, the chimneys, the overhead timbers and the wainscoting in the principal rooms probably remains much the same. Today the whole lower floor was thrown open to the Daughters of the American Revolution and friends, who assembled in large numbers. The rooms were very tastefully decorated with patriotic hangings, draperies of red, white and blue, flags, rosettes, etc. Among the numerous family portraits in the house, one hundred years old or more, was one of Joseph Goldthwaite, a famous Tory ancestor, which was entirely covered by an American flag, that Joseph's likeness might not be shocked by or take part in the day's proceedings. The exterior of the house was also decorated with red, white and blue streamers, the patriotic exercises of today thus, in a way, repeating the spirit shown at "Ye excellent Inne of Landlord Wyman" in 1775.

The official program of the exercises of the afternoon was painted in the shape of a bright poster

bearing the full form of Washington in coat of blue, with waistcoat and breeches of yellow, done by Miss Eliza Adams. The program was as follows:

Drum Call.....
Yankee Doodle.....Fife and Drum.
Opening, by Regent,Mrs. M. L. Griffin.
Address,Gen. S. G. Griffin.
(with "Road to Boston," by fife and drum).
Unveiling the tablet,.....(by Mrs. R. S. Perkins).
Salute, 30 guns,Company H, 2d Reg't, N. H. N. G.
Song, "One Hundred Years Ago,".....Chorus of D. of R.
Solo by Miss Bolster.
Old Music,Fife and Drum.
Song, "America,"Chorus and Guests.
Tea and refreshments by D. of R.

The exercises were carried out in accordance with the program. Something of the spirit of '76 was added by the presence of Company H, Keene Light Guard Battalion, 2d Regiment N. H. N. G., Capt. P. F. Babbidge, commanding. The command having kindly accepted an invitation to be present and assist in the exercises, turned out forty men, armed and equipped in light marching order. The company drummer, John D. Chapman, and Sheriff Samuel O. Gates, formerly one of the battalion fifers, gave the selections and calls for the drum and fife, while the salute was fired by the full company. As Mrs. Perkins arose and stepped forward to unveil the tablet, she wrapped around herself a national flag of ample

proportions, and as she gracefully removed from the tablet the covering which had protected it, the fife and drum sounded the salute which was quickly followed by the rifle volleys. The songs were rendered by a chorus of the Chapter members comprising the following: Mrs. Sarah Fannie Allen, leader; Miss Mabel Frances Bolster, soloist; Mrs. Gertrude Evelina Gates, Miss Sarah Adeliza Webster, Miss Gertrude Knight Dorr, Miss Harriet May Smith. Mrs. Mary Ann A. Prentiss, pianist.

The hour set for the exercises having arrived, the Regent of the Chapter, Mrs. Margaret Lamson Griffin, called the assembly to order and said:

Chapter Members and Friends:—Ashuelot Chapter, of the Daughters of the American Revolution, have invited you, their friends and neighbors, to assist in honoring the memory of the thirty brave men, who started at sunrise, April 21, 1775, from this house, one hundred and twenty-two years ago. General Griffin will tell you their story, having accepted the urgent invitation from the Daughters of this Chapter to do so. I have the honor to introduce to you General Griffin.

Gen. S. G. Griffin of Keene, then gave the following address:

ADDRESS.

Madam Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Ladies and Gentlemen:

In our study of the exciting events of 1775, we must remember that those events were not the result of a sudden uprising of the people against their government, but the culmination of a long and

bitter controversy with the ruling power. For more than ten years the government of England had forced the Colonies to contribute to its support without giving them any voice in the raising or distribution of the taxes. It had passed acts of tyranny and oppression which had aroused their indignation and provoked their resistance. There had been a war of words, and the people had been excited by thrilling eloquence from their leaders in Massachusetts, Virginia, and in each of the Colonies, whose burning words had been published and sent through the land. Blood had flowed in the streets of Boston and elsewhere. Committees of Correspondence—afterwards called “Committees of Safety”—had been formed in every town for mutual aid and protection, and companies of “minutemen” had been organized for prompt action.

In their feelings the people were prepared for war; but in the needful to carry on a war—in arms, ammunition, equipments and money—they were sadly deficient. But that did not deter them. They believed their cause to be a righteous one, and they were roused to fight for it with unflinching determination,—trusting to Providence for powder and balls, guns and rations. Small quantities of arms and ammunition had been gathered by the patriots at Concord, Worcester and other places near Boston, and Gen. Gage, the commander of the British forces, determined to seize and destroy them. Those at Concord, so nearly within his reach, were in especial danger. The Committees of Safety and other patriots in Boston were on the watch for every movement of the British troops in that city, and nothing escaped their vigilance.

The wife of Gen. Gage himself was an American lady and a patriot at heart, and it has always been understood, though not stated as an historical fact, that the patriots received very valuable hints and information from her. From those and from other unmistakable indications they knew that those troops were about to move, and their object was easily guessed. The Committees of Safety were notified all through the country. Relays of horsemen were prepared to catch up the direful news and speed them to every township and every log cabin,—like the burnt and bloody cross of the Scotch Highlanders. Paul Revere had already been employed

as a messenger, had been sent to Portsmouth and other places on previous occasions, and had proved himself an expert courier. He had his boat on the Boston side of Charles river, and horses were ready at Charlestown.

On the fifteenth of April the British grenadiers and light infantry began movements which excited suspicion. Dr. Warren sent the intelligence to Adams and Hancock, at Lexington, and some of those military stores at Concord were more carefully secreted. On Tuesday, the 18th, Gen. Gage sent a number of non-commissioned officers into the country to patrol the roads and intercept any mischievous rebel who might be carrying contraband news to the conspirators. That evening the "tramp, tramp, tramp" of the grenadiers and light infantry was again heard in the streets of Boston—this time with as little noise as possible, without fife, or drum, or bugle, and therefore all the more ominous and alarming,—and it aroused the patriots to the terrible fact that the crisis had come.

At ten o'clock those troops marched down to the foot of the Common, embarked in boats, crossed over to Lechmere Point, now East Cambridge, and started on their march to Lexington and Concord. As soon as it was ascertained that the movement was to be by land and not by sea, the messengers were started out to give the alarm. Young Revere hastened to his boat and two of his friends rowed him across Charles river. Five minutes later orders had reached the sentinels all along that line to allow no one to leave Boston.

It was then eleven o'clock. The lanterns were already hung in the steeple of Christ church,—the Old North church still standing on Copp's Hill—gleaming with a friendly light towards the patriots in the country, but shaded with darkness on the Boston side. Richard Devens met Revere and gave him a fleet horse from the stable of a Mr. Larkin, of Charlestown, and he quickly mounted and galloped away towards Lexington. As he crossed Charlestown Neck he was intercepted by two of those British officers, one of whom he quickly left behind, the other he gave a daring race through some clay pits, in one of which he left him floundering, and hastened on through

Medford, shouting the alarm and rousing the people as he went. He reached Lexington, twelve miles from Boston, at midnight and gave the alarm.

William Dawes, another courier, by another route, joined him there and they started to give the alarm at Concord, but were met by a party of those British patrols, well armed and well mounted. A scuffle ensued in which Revere was captured and detained with other prisoners till nearly morning; but they answered the questions put to them so adroitly that all were released. But other horsemen had caught up the message and were hurrying away into the country. At each town roads branched off from the main line, and on each of those fresh riders darted out, so that the tidings flew in all directions.

Before sunrise American citizens had been slain at Lexington; and the horsemen were speeding away with the alarm on every road. All day long of that hot Wednesday, the 19th—so hot that on their retreat that afternoon some of the British soldiers actually ran with their tongues lolling out of their mouths, like dogs on the chase—all day long those horsemen were carrying the news through Concord, to Acton, to Groton, to Townshend, to New Ipswich, to Rindge, to Jaffrey, and in every other direction; and the “minutemen” and others were hurrying forward to resist the invaders. So swift were those messengers that “very early in the morning of the 19th, the day of the battle of Lexington,” the alarm had reached Hollis in this state, forty-two miles from Boston, and “in the afternoon or evening of that day, ninety-four of the Hollis men marched for Lexington and Cambridge.” That same afternoon, while the British were still on their bloody retreat to Boston, the tidings had reached New Ipswich, sixty miles from Boston, and ninety-seven men rallied and started at two o'clock that night, under Capt. Thomas Heald. It was about sixty-five miles to Rindge, and the news reached that town late the same afternoon. The night was spent in rallying the men, and fifty-four, including officers, started early the next morning, under Capt. Nathan Hale, and were in Cambridge before night of the 21st.

It was ninety miles to Keene, and there was no road this side of

New Ipswich—nothing but a bridle path through the woods, to be followed by marked trees—consequently the progress of the messenger was comparatively slow as he sought out that path through the forest, probably by the aid of a lantern, in the darkness of the night. Or, possibly he rested for a few hours. Nevertheless he reached Keene “in the forenoon” of the 20th. He came, as we believe, across the southern spur of Monadnock, up the Marlboro’ road and across by what is now Baker street, as that was then the “Boston road.” Capt. Ephraim Dorman commanded the military company of the town. He lived on the east side of Main street just north of the Boston road—about where Mr. Edward A. Fox now lives—in the first house the messenger reached as he came into Main street, or, seeing at this house, so near, the sign of a tavern kept by Capt. Isaac Wyman, he may have come directly here to inquire for the commander of the company. At any rate, Capt. Dorman was notified at once and he immediately consulted Capt. Wyman, who was a more experienced soldier than himself. By his advice expresses were sent to every part of the town, notifying the inhabitants to meet on the green that afternoon. Men and boys, women and girls carried the tidings in all haste to the nearest log cabin and that family to the next and so on, all through the town.

The meetinghouse stood then where the soldiers' monument stands now, facing the south; and the “green” or common, was the space in front of the meetinghouse extending down to the present railroad track. The line of buildings on the east side of that space was nearly the same then as now, but on the west side there were no buildings from the present railroad track to the Court house, and for a long distance beyond, and Court street had not then been opened. All that ground south of the meetinghouse was open common, the training ground of the military company. And the good old custom still prevails, and I hope it always will,—as a reminder of those early days—of holding a public auction on Saturday afternoons, on that old common.

The meeting was held that afternoon and voted unanimously to send a company “to oppose the regulars,” and Capt. Wyman

was chosen commander. Capt. Dorman was a brave soldier and an able man, but he was too old to make that long and rapid march, and stand the rigors of a campaign. Capt. Wyman, too, was fifty-one years old, but he was a staunch patriot and ready to go. Twenty-eight years previous to that time he had enlisted in the army, and fought in the ranks in the "Old French and Indian war" of 1747, '48 and '49. In the "Last French and Indian war,"—1755 to '60—he had been a captain commanding a company, and a part of the time was in command of Fort Massachusetts, near what is now North Adams.

Volunteers were called for and twenty-nine men stepped to the front, the captain himself making the thirtieth. With the wisdom of experience he told his men to go to their homes and make ready for the march—get their guns, ammunition and equipments, and have provisions for several days prepared, for said he, "all the roads will be full of men and you can procure nothing on the way"—and to meet at his house the next morning at sunrise. Imagine the excitement and distress in those primitive homes all through that sleepless night.

By daylight on that Friday morning, one hundred and twenty-two years ago today, they began to assemble at this house. For many years their names have been lost. There is no roll of them among the town records, and none in the Revolutionary rolls of this state that designates their names, because they did not remain in the service of the colony of New Hampshire. At first they were in Stark's regiment, but if they were regularly enlisted, the rolls have been lost or destroyed. I have written to Washington and received the reply that there are no such rolls there. But soon after the battle of Bunker Hill, the Keene company was transferred from Stark's regiment to that of Col. Paul Dudley Sargent, of Amherst, New Hampshire, in the service of Massachusetts, for the term of eight months; and within the past month, in my researches in the archives of Massachusetts for material for the history of Keene, among the Revolutionary rolls of that state I found one which bears the names of these men. It is the roll of enlistment of the company of Capt. Jeremiah Stiles, of Keene, New Hampshire, into

Sargent's regiment; and from the date of enlistment of the men from this town—April 21st, 1775—we are able to designate twenty-one of those who marched out from this spot on that Friday morning, Capt. Wyman himself making twenty-two. No other company marched from Keene on that 21st of April. If such had been the fact we should have learned it from both history and tradition, but both are silent on that subject; therefore these men must have belonged to that company of thirty. Their names were:

Jeremiah Stiles, who lived on what is now Washington street, about where the late William G. Hall's house now stands. Upon the promotion of Capt. Wyman, he was chosen captain and commanded the company at Bunker Hill and through the remainder of that year.

John Griggs—afterwards spelled Gregg,—he was chosen ensign, rose to the rank of captain, and the next year commanded a company in the continental army.

Samuel White, Ezra Metcalf and Asahel Nims, all appointed sergeants. Nims lived in what is now Sullivan, and was killed at the battle of Bunker Hill.

Luke Metcalf and Benjamin Ellis, appointed corporals. Ellis was but twenty years old, and afterward rose to the rank of captain and commanded a company towards the close of the war.

Samuel Bassett, the fifer of the company, put down on the Massachusetts roll as "Freamer." He lived where Hon. R. H. Porter now does, on Court street.

Ebenezer Billings, William Bradley, Stephen Day, wounded at Bunker Hill and died August 17th; Jesse Dassance, James Eddy, Caleb Ellis, Hugh Gray.

Eliakim Nims, a brother of Asahel, who lived in his later years on what has since been the Lucien B. Page farm. The old house stood until within a few years about where Mr. Benjamin F. Sawyer now lives, on Washington street.

Daniel Stone, Joseph Thatcher, Elisha Willis, Daniel Willson, who lived over on the east side of Beech Hill; and Isaac Griswold. Griswold lived so near the north line of the town that he was sometimes counted as a citizen of Gilsum; probably owned property

in both towns which at that time gave him a right to vote in both; but he was in this company, enlisted on the 21st of April, was for many years afterwards prominent in the town affairs of Keene, and doubtless was one of the thirty who rallied with the other Keene men and marched from this spot on that Friday morning. John Griggs was also put down in some cases as from Gilsum, probably for the same reason, but he was borne on the rolls afterward first as Lieut., then as Capt. John Gregg, of Keene; and his name appears on the roll of the militia company in Keene in 1773. We also learn from the New Hampshire Revolutionary rolls that Benjamin Tiffany, a sergeant, and Elijah Blake, a private, in the company of Capt. Samuel Richards, of Goffstown, in Stark's regiment; and Ebenezer Carpenter, a sergeant in the company of Capt. Benjamin Mann, of Mason, in Reed's regiment, were from Keene, and each enlisted April 23 and were in the battle of June 17th. It is therefore probable that these three men were also among the thirty who marched from Keene on the 21st, and that they joined other companies, dating their enlistment from the time they arrived at Medford instead of the time they left home, as did Col. Stark, Capt. Wyman and many others. These make twenty-five of the thirty men, leaving five still to be accounted for.

At sunrise they were all here—the thirty men, gathered on this spot in front of this house—and from the custom of those times it is easy to conjecture that their first march was straight into the tap room—this south room—to take their grog before starting on their long march, and no doubt it was free to all, for it was the captain's treat in acknowledgment of the honor of his election. Then they came out and formed and marched off down Main street, turning down what is now Baker street and out on the Marlboro' road. And we may well believe that Samuel Bassett on his fife, and the drummer, whoever he may have been, struck up that lively old tune which we Yankees all know so well, "On the Road to Boston." [Here the tune was played by the fife and drum.] And we may well believe, also, that the *tune*—probably a very old one—received its christening by that name at that time, when from every town in New England patriots were marching on the road to Boston.

The same intense excitement pervaded all this section of the country. The Swanzey company of sixty-two men under Capt. —afterwards Col.—Joseph Hammond, started at daylight.* “In the afternoon, Gen. Bellows, Col. John Bellows and Thomas Sparhawk arrived from Walpole, and riding to his house inquired for Capt. Wyman. Being answered, ‘that he started at sunrise, at the head of a company of men.’ They exclaimed: ‘Keene has shown a noble spirit!’ and hastened onward. They were soon followed by a party of men from Walpole.”† To each of the little towns away from the main lines of travel in the newer parts, the only roads were those bridle paths, to be followed by marked trees, although some of them—as was the case most of the way from New Ipswich to Keene—had been regularly laid out by the towns.

In the little town of Packersfield, now Nelson, where I had the honor to be born, the tidings were received about the same time they were at Keene, the men were rallied in the same way and they started at the same hour for the scene of action. There were but thirty-four men in that town of suitable age to go, and twenty-seven of them started that morning at sunrise, under Lieut. Abijah Brown, the Hercules of the town. And some other towns did equally well. This shows a condition of public sentiment in Keene which needs explanation. At that time Keene had a population of 756. Two years previous to that it had a fully organized company of militia consisting of 127 officers and men, besides an alarm list, or home guard, of the older men, which numbered 45; and Mr. Hale in his Annals has given us each one of their names. In 1775 those companies must have been still larger, yet Keene turned out but thirty men at the Lexington alarm.

The explanation is this. The colonel of the regiment of militia in this section of the colony—one of the wealthiest men in the county—was Josiah Willard, a former resident of Keene and her first representative to the legislature, in 1766, who was at this

* Revolutionary Rolls, vol. I, page 36. Swanzey Town History says they started at sunrise.

† Annals, 41.

Col. Josiah Willard lived ⁽¹⁴⁾ in Manchester. His son
William " " " " here and was a Major. And
recorder for a while. Was secretary of the

time, and had been for several years, recorder of deeds, and spent much time and had much influence here, and he was a tory. Lieut. Benjamin Hall, who for four years had been Keene's representative in the colonial assembly, a leading and influential man, was a tory. Elijah Williams, the bright young lawyer of the town, a graduate of Harvard college, was a tory. Dr. Josiah Pomeroy, the leading physician of the town, was a tory. Breed Batchelder, the major of the regiment, a bright and active man who had surveyed the towns of Gilsuam and Packersfield and done much surveying in this town, and for years had been more a citizen of Keene than of Packersfield, where he lived just across the Keene line, and was better known and had more influence here, he, too, was a tory. And there were several others. There were, however, but thirteen of them in the township, but nearly all were influential men. Those leaders of public opinion—believing that the cause of the patriots was a desperate one which could bring nothing but failure with all its direful consequences, and that for themselves and their property it was much safer to stand by the home government—had been constantly throwing cold water on the patriotic fires in the town, and it is almost a wonder that they had not completely quenched them.

In the civil war people used to say that it required a deal more pluck to be a Union man in the border states, where it was war to the knife and the shotgun among neighbors and friends, than it did at the North where the sentiment was nearly all one way. And so, in 1775, it took more courage, both moral and physical, to be a patriot here in Keene than in some of the surrounding towns. All the more honor, then, to the thirty heroes who *did* rally to their country's aid in spite of the adverse influence, and marched out from this spot that morning at sunrise.

They made their march in two days—eighty-five miles—to Medford, where we find them on the twenty-third. On the twenty-sixth the New Hampshire officers held a meeting and elected John Stark, colonel, and Capt. Isaac Wyman, of Keene, lieut.-col. of the First New Hampshire regiment, and voted that Col. Stark should have charge of all the New Hampshire troops in the field. After-

wards Col. Wyman was promoted to a full colonelcy and commanded a regiment in the continental service. That left Lieut. Jeremiah Stiles in command of the company, and he was afterwards commissioned captain and commanded it at the battle of Bunker Hill.

The alarm of the nineteenth had brought together around Boston an army of nearly 20,000 men—many of them veterans of the Indian wars—but it was unorganized and almost unarmed. It had not yet an established quartermaster, commissary or ordnance department, and therefore was destitute of quarters, rations, arms or ammunition which could be drawn by the men, and it was with great difficulty that our New Hampshire troops could get anything to eat. They had left their homes suddenly, with no time to arrange their affairs for a long stay, and they felt that they could not remain. Many left and returned to their homes—the men of other colonies as well as New Hampshire—without the slightest intention of deserting the cause; and there was no power to prevent it, because they had not signed enlisting papers in any regular service. Some of our Keene men came home, but others stood ready to take their places—very likely some of the same men returned to the front after a short stay at home—and joined (or rejoined) the company at Medford, thus keeping the number of thirty good, besides filling the places of Capt. Wyman, promoted, Asahel Nims, when he came to be killed June 17th, and any others who may have joined other companies. The names of those who joined previous to the battle of Bunker Hill were:

Ebenezer Cook—appointed sergeant, May 15th.

Benjamin Archer, who lived on the hills near the Walpole line, four miles from town.

Joseph Gray, twenty years old, son of Aaron Gray, of Gray's Hill—died in the service the next year of small pox at Ticonderoga, where so many of our soldiers died of the same disease.

William Gray—an elder brother of Joseph.

Samuel Hall—entered on this roll as from Rockingham, but reported ever afterwards as from Keene, was a citizen of Keene for many years following, and doubtless went from Keene at that time.

Benjamin Hall—not the tory, but a son of Samuel.

Hannaniah Hall, David Harris, Stephen Larabee, Thomas Morse.

Two of them enlisted on the 8th and seven on the 15th of May, and one, Benjamin Archer, was promoted to sergeant on the 26th of May, having enlisted some time previous to that date. Silas French and Tilley Howe joined after the battle of Bunker Hill, and the name of Jonathan Wheeler, of Keene, appears on a later roll of the same company.

Besides these, Ephraim Leonard and John White, of Keene, enlisted, May 10th and May 2d, respectively, in the company of Capt. Jacob Hinds, of Chesterfield, and Joshua Ellis, May 3d, in that of Capt. Jonathan Whitcomb, of Swanzey, both in Reed's regiment, and Ellis was severely wounded at Bunker Hill. John Brown and Robert Worsley, both of Keene, also enlisted in Capt. Mann's company with Sergeant Ebenezer Carpenter—Brown, April 30th, and Worsley, May 10th—and were in the battle, and Worsley and Thomas Douglass, also of Keene, joined Col. Arnold's expedition to Canada in the fall of that year. Douglass was in Capt. Gould's company in Sargent's Massachusetts regiment. Timothy Crossfield enlisted July 1st, from Stiles' company into the artillery regiment of Col. Gridley, of Massachusetts. These make in all forty men from Keene in the battle of Bunker Hill, or forty-one if Crossfield was there, which is probable, besides the large number who were there and afterwards came here to reside.

It is fitting that the Daughters of the American Revolution should commemorate the spirit of the men and women of 1775; and they honor themselves as well as the patriots of those times by erecting this memorial tablet.

This house—first the old colonial tavern, then for more than half a century the almost sanctified parsonage, now the charming home—is the most interesting and important relic of those early days now left in Keene; and the arrival of the messenger who brought the tidings of the shedding of the first blood in the American revolution, the rallying of the people on the green that same afternoon, and the marching of the thirty patriots from this spot the next morning at sunrise, were the most thrilling events that

ever took place in Keene; and for the "Daughters"—the granddaughters and the great granddaughters—of those patriots to place on this house a tablet commemorating those events is an exceedingly graceful and appropriate act.

Something of the spirit of 1775 was shown in 1861, and about one-half of one per cent. of the inhabitants of Keene rallied to the support of the government at the *two first* calls of President Lincoln for troops. But in 1775 more than four per cent. of all the people of Keene marched from this house to fight—in what seemed an almost desperate cause—first for their rights and then for their liberties. In the battle of Bunker Hill Keene had nearly six per cent. of its whole number of inhabitants; and in several of the New Hampshire towns nearly every able-bodied man started for the front on those April days, leaving the women to do even the farm work at home.

In 1861 our young men went to the front abundantly supplied with every comfort a soldier can have in the field, and they were paid good wages in good money. In 1775 the country was poor, the colonies and the towns were poor, individuals were poor. It was almost impossible to supply the soldiers with decent clothing, many had to go without blankets or overcoats and many were soon barefooted. It was with great difficulty that their most pressing wants could be supplied, and they were often hungry and cold, and sick without medical care, to say nothing of the wounded in the same condition, while the women and children nearly starved at home. And those soldiers were paid in paper currency so debased that towards the close of their service it took forty dollars of it to buy a breakfast. Yet there was almost no flinching from the strife.

These facts bring us directly to the conclusion that when we look for the noblest spirit of patriotism ever exhibited in this country, we must still go back to the days of 1775-'76-'77.

wish I could witness its crowning by the patriotic "Daughters," and I wish I could be there to take off my (old man's) hat to the venerable pile, which holds so much of my own life's history and which now is to stand as one of Keene's historical landmarks.

Always affectionately yours,

J. W. BARSTOW.

Hon. Geo. S. Hale wrote to Mrs. L. Hayward:

5 EXETER STREET,

BOSTON, MASS., APRIL 17, 1897.

Will you kindly express to the Ashuelot Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution my thanks for their kind invitation to be present at the unveiling of the tablet on Mrs. Perkins' house, on the 21st inst., and my regret that I shall be unable to accept it. I am very glad that they are interesting themselves in the commemoration of historical places in Keene and hope they will find many others worthy of their attention.

Affectionately yours,

GEO. S. HALE.

After the formal exercises, delicious refreshments, consisting of Russian tea, lemonade, sandwiches, rolls, cakes, coffee, etc., were served to all present, the men of Company H being served upon the lawn. The Company, on its departure, returned thanks to the regent and hostess through Capt. Babbidge, and fired a parting salute before marching from the grounds. The ladies and other guests present were each presented by the hostess with a small American flag as a souvenir of the occasion, before their departure.