

Meditations from Under the Hill

BY ELIZABETH H. UNDERHILL

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Miss Underhill has written her meditation under the assumption that the "Rolling Stone" known so well to many New Englanders, especially to those who live in the Fitchburg region, will be known to our readers generally. Perhaps it should be said to those who are not familiar with the facts that the "Rolling Stone" is an enormous boulder delicately balanced on a cliff above Fitchburg. It is a famous landmark of the district, and has given its name to one of our leading churches, the Rollstone Congregational Church of Fitchburg.]

I wander along a country roadside, perchance I step over the wall and climb a pasture hill for a view down the fertile valley of our loved Connecticut River, to where the first mountain shuts off the view in that direction and turns it east and west.

More hills come to view on every hand and, all about, one sees stones—from the pebble, thrown out of the highway by a swiftly passing motor car, up to the "Hills of the Old Granite State," some of which are veritable blocks of immovable stone.

In fancy he travels afar, even to the home of the ruby or the diamond, and his eyes feast on the beauty of their gleaming luster.

However, one is reminded that even as

there were in olden time "vessels of copper, precious as gold," that there is at the present many a brown stone, precious as a diamond.

One there was that started fourscore years ago from a mossy wall, in a little New England town.

Time and a certain inherent ambition took this pebble (for never in those days was it dignified by the name of stone), to mingle with others of its kind, and to be jostled about, sitting in here and there, for a chink or a trig, as need required. Always, I believe, it fitted, and filled the space assigned, though perchance it bore many a hard knock.

In course of time the demands of business bore it to a metropolis, where for a time it entered into the structure of the busy marts of manufacturing; and then again it took to the road and became a "Rolling Stone," traveling here and there, making new contacts and adding luster by the process.

Early in these years, this one-time pebble was built into the structure of a certain church, of the faith whose congregation gives it its name, and from henceforth he became a "Stone."

But here enters what may seem a misnomer, as this church is named the Roll-

stone Church. But why not? May not even the "Rolling Stone" of proverbial fame, which "gathers no moss," have a fold and a shepherd? The present shepherd of this fold has written of this member the following appreciation:

"A ROLLING STONE"

I know a certain rolling stone,
Who's roamed about, from zone to zone,
For fully fourscore years,
And in his rolling round the earth
He's not grown fat—indeed his girth
A waspy waist line nears.
For he has spent his years since birth
In kindness, goodwill, friendship, mirth,
A better world to make:
Such service from a man or stone
Wears off rough edge; adds zest or tone:
Years lived for His name's sake.

So fill the glass with H-2-O:
Away with sorrow, tears and woe!
Let's drink a jolly toast
To Babbitt—eighty winters young:
Good wishes sound from every tongue,
Of friends from coast to coast.

Let no one think that the little pebble that, perchance, he has kicked from his path, or even the rolling stone on the hillside, is useless. Each has a part in God's plan. Fill your niche!

in the Congregationalist July 16th 1931

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Lyme Celebrates 150th Anniversary

The Congregational Church of Lyme celebrated its 150th anniversary, Aug. 30. From 11 to 12 o'clock a. m. was observed as a social hour during which many absent and past members of the church returned, greeted one another, and renewed old acquaintance and recalled old memories.

After the dinner, letters of greeting were read from the five living ex-pastors and from numerous friends who were unable to attend. A notable feature of this hour was the attendance of descendants from four of the pastors of the olden time. The first pastor, Rev. William Conant, was represented by Miss Sarah Conant, fifth in descent. Rev. Nathaniel Lambert, the second pastor, was represented by Mr. Roger Lambert, his grandson. The Rev. Baxter Perry's memory was presented by Mrs. Payson Fairfield, his granddaughter and the Rev. D. P. Butler had for his representative, his daughter, Mrs. Mary Butler Pomeroy.

At 2.30 o'clock, p. m. formal services were held in the auditorium of the church and the pastor, Rev. Geo. M. Woodwell, gave an his-

When Sunday Comes

By John Andrew Holmes

A congregation is a body of people who are willing to pay good money to be told plainly of their faults. No sensible church will employ a minister to say only sweet things to it, as no wise patient will call a physician merely to administer an ice-cream soda.

torical address of the founding of the church and its two co-operating organizations.

He was followed by Rev. William Slade, of Thetford, Vt., whose address presented most clearly the mighty influence upon that early church life of Eleazar Wheelock, the founder of Dartmouth College, Rev. Dr. Asa Burton, of Thetford and Rev. Peter Powers, of Newbury, Vt.

There was also present and participating in the services, Rev. John Cowan, of Bristol, N. H., a former pastor of the church. An interesting letter from the church of Old Lyme, Ct., was received and read. A pleasant feature of this anniversary was the gift of a Howard tower-clock from Mrs. Sarah Converse, a long-time member of the church. Rev. Henry A. Hazen, formerly the Secretary of the National Council was for several years the pastor of the church.

This church was organized in the same year with that connected with Dartmouth College. The first President of that college, Eleazar Wheelock, was closely connected with its organization or "imbodiment" as it was quaintly termed. The College Church was represented at the celebration by Prof. C. D. Adams, Prof. Charles Emerson and Prof. George Lord.

*in copy of Oct 6th
1921*

1	Dea. Edward. Converse.	wife Sarah.	7 children
2	Say. Samuel	Judith Carter.	2 "
3	Samuel.	Dorcas.	6 "
4	Thomas.	Abigail Fay	9 "
5	Jacob.	Elizabeth B. By	10 "
6	Jacob.	Abigail Cobb.	12 "
7	Marilla	Harrison B	7 "
8	Kate	Hiram C.	1 "
9	Marilla		

1638

x
 6 Jacob C. born in Lyme. N.H. Sep. 22. 1750
 his wife born. Sep. 2 1762
 married Jan 20th 1785
 he died June 29. 1822.
 she died Nov 12th 1850

x
 This should be 5 should it not?
 When was our grandfather born,
 married, died ect-? Also grandmother
 Please return this - No such.

Return this

Lestary.

A C-3602

Will you tell me all you can of
Elizabeth Bibby, the year she was burn-
ed-
I want - I am afraid I have not
to put it -
with Mrs - your question.
the picture of her - Was she married
the second time?

Marilla b in Lyme N.H.
Joel. b in Thompson Co. Nov 1785
Joel b in Hillingly Co. Sept 1750
Thomas b in Woburn, Mass. Oct 1690
Samuel b " " April 1662
" b " " March 1657
Edward b. England



Wm. H. Brown
1853
My mother
Sister
A. D. STARRS
PICTURE PALACE
500 BROAD
NEW YORK
FROM



Bradford, Vt. — Friday, January 18, 1957

Piermont Family Shares Treasured Whittier Letter

Personal influence exerted by one of America's greatest poets was brought to life for Bradford academy English classes this week when Lawrence Underhill of Piermont brought to school a letter written by John Greenleaf Whittier to his great-grandmother, Mrs. William A. G. Converse, of Stewartstown, N. H., in 1877.

The letter which follows was an answer from the poet, then 70, to one written by Mrs. Converse telling of the comfort she had received from his works.

The Poet's Letter

Oakdale, Danvers, Mass.,
1st mo. 8, 1877.

My dear Mrs. Converse,
I owe thee an apology for not sooner replying to thy letter. The truth is I rec'd. it just as I was leaving Amesbury and after reading it laid it aside with several other letters received at the same mail and in some unaccounted way it was mislaid. I was not sure of the name, though I thought it was Converse, and I dropped a line to the p. m. of your town asking if a lady named Mrs. Converse lived there and I have

just had his answer in the affirmative. I was unwilling th e should think for a moment that thy kind letter was indifferent to me. To know that any words of mine have been a source of comfort and pleasure to thee, gives me a feeling of gratitude and joy; and at the same time, the circumstances under which thy letter was written have called out my deepest sympathy.

I am myself an invalid, suffering much from protracted neuralgia and distress in my head, and during this winter have been mostly confined to the house. At this time of life I can hardly hope for sound health again.

May the dearest Lord and Father offer all tenderly comfort and sustain thee in thy hours of weakness and trial! Our only trust (and it is a sure one) is in the Infinite Goodness. Not in our own works or words but in His mercy, must be our reliance in time and eternity, and "His mercy endureth forever".

With thanks for thy letter and with much sympathy I am thy friend,

John G. Whittier.

Constant Schwandt Sep. 15¹⁹¹³
Bernard Willie Schwandt Dec 8¹⁹¹⁴
Malcolm Campbell Rob May 13. 1911
Jean Howard " Feb 26 1914
Margaret Woodbridge Clifford. May 1. 1913
died. April 19. 1914
Robert Augustin Hamock - Mar 3 1912
Elsie Howard " Aug 30 1913
Edith Mary Hunt April 27. 1907
Gerda Charles. " Oct 28. 1908
Lillian Mary " July 24. 1910
Vida Annie " Dec 21. 1911.
William Fred " Mar. 24. 1914.
Homer Walter Knapp. Jan 22. 1912
Ralph. Merwin " April 9. 1914
Adelaide Esther Bradley. Dec 25. 1913
Lester Lawrence Arnold Aug 28 1910

Lyme N. H.
Nov. 4, 1959

①

Dear Mrs Underhill -

I am not town clerk, my father used to be. The present clerk is Miss Pearl Dimick, Lyme Ctr. Center

I have talked with Lucy King and she does not think Dr. Coult was buried in Lyme. His wife Miriam is buried in the cemetery back of the church and in the same lot is Harriet Newell Converse about 1850 also Abbie Converse who died in Richmond Va. about 1851

Lucy King says she has a copy of the Dartmouth Gazette dated Nov 8, 1803 which has a notice of the death of Mrs Miriam Coult on Oct. 29, 1803 - aged forty four years.

She also says Dr. Coult left Lyme in 1828 going with a son to

(2)

Chester W. H. where he probably died
and was buried there.

she says Joel Converse jr. was
buried here in Lyme -

I hope this will help some in
your queries.

Sincerely

Mildred M. Grant

Piermont, N.H. Nov 9. 1859. ①

Dear Conner Kott:-

You have waited long for a reply, but I have been making search for facts with not very much material results. "Conner History" gives facts of his birth as first Lyme Conn July 27 1750. Lived most of life in Lyme N.H. died in Chester (now Auburn) N.H. He married Miriam Hiddings C. Hartford Conn Sept 12 1784 she died Oct. 1835 at Lyme N.H.

Graptow C. Hazellei says a Col. Conlt "lived in S. part of Lyme, was in board of Selectmen 1789-90. He was there in 1808-11 but at other time he came or moved away we have not learned." "His later life was spent with a son in Chester N.H. Five daughters and four sons constituted his family, one of the daughters being the wife of Joel Conner." A boy and was 4th child (Conner Hist)

There is some Conlt history in manuscript at Hartford Historical Building, to which I was sent.

I think if you write to Town Clerk

at Autumn you may get more
data but that is only other source I
can suggest. I enclose your card
and Mildred Grant's reply, which
shows that both she and Lucy King
have done search for facts, Lucy
King is in charge of search for Latin
history, as I know.

I wish I could give you more
satisfaction.

Did I tell you of telephoning to
your daughter when in Rochester
in summer? I hoped I might see
her. Thank you for ideas of
your family.

I have no data on Star record.

Just the last two days we have en-
joyed beauty of sunshines. Hope we
have a lot. Leaves have mostly
fallen - elms were fine & the maples
faded - With love

Bessie Underhill