

BULLETIN
OF THE
BEARDSLEY FAMILY
ASSOCIATION



OCTOBER 1939

BEARDSLEY NOTES

OCTOBER 1939 No. I

The sixth reunion of the Beardsley Family was held at the Sterling Community House, Stratford, Connecticut, June 30th and July 1, 1939.

Those serving on the committees were Mrs. Nellie Beardsley Holt, West Hartford, Conn. Mrs. Lydia Beardsley Spear, Stratford, Conn. Mrs. Frederick S. Beardsley, Stratford, Conn. Dr. Lewis G. Beardsley, Washington, D. C. Mr. Frank W. Beardsley, Shelton, Conn. Mr. Edwards S. Beardsley, Stepney, Conn. Mr. Robert M. Beardsley, Stratford, Conn. Col. Reginald B. DeLacour, Stratford, Conn. Mr. Vernon S. Morehouse, Stratford, Conn. Mr. Charles B. Russell, Newington, Conn.

PROGRAM

Friday, June 30th.

1:30 P.M. Registration.
6:30 Dinner

Saturday, July 1st.

9:30 A.M. Registration.
12:30 Luncheon.
2:00 Dedication of Memorial.
3:00 Pageant by school children.
4:00 Reception and refreshments.

The event commemorated the 300th anniversary of the settlement of Stratford, by the original seventeen families, and in which William Beardsley and his wife Mary took a prominent part.

The first settlers landed, 1639, at

Sandy Hollow. It was at this spot where the first meeting house, the first burial place, and the first school house were located. Here, on a small park, we have placed a memorial, a boulder with plaque bearing the following:

To honor the memory of
WILLIAM and MARY BEARDSLEY
and the other first settlers of
STRATFORD
who landed near this spot
in the year, 1639.

Erected by the
BEARDSLEY FAMILY ASSOCIATION.

After the dinner on June 30th. at which 143 were present, the Beardslee-ley Family Association of America was formed.

Rules and by-laws were adopted, a copy of which will be printed in a later bulletin.

The following officers were elected.
President.

Dr. Lewis G. Beardsley, Washington, D.C.
1st. Vice-president.

TenEyck R. Beardsley, Scotch Plains, N.J.
2nd. Vice-president.

Col. Sax B. DeLacour, Stratford, Conn.
3rd. Vice-president.

Mrs. Carrie B. Larned, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Secretary and treasurer.

Mrs. Nellie B. Holt, West Hartford, Ct.
Directors.

Lewis G. Beardsley, Washington, D.C.
Mrs. Nellie B. Holt, West Hartford, Ct.
Vernon S. Morehouse, Stratford, Conn.
John L. Beardsley, Bridgeport, Conn.
Robert M. Beardsley, Stratford, Conn.

DEDICATION EXERCISES.

Chairman of the day.

Dr. Lewis G. Beardsley, Washington, D.C.

Invocation

Rev. Claude G. Beardslee, Bethlehem, Pa.

Address of Welcome.

Mr. Vernon S. Morehouse, Stratford, Conn.

Address.

Rev. William A. Beardsley, New Haven, Conn.

Closing song, "America".

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

by

Mr. Vernon S. Morehouse, Chairman of the
Town Council of Stratford.

I am privileged to welcome and greet you, in behalf of the Town of Stratford, upon the occasion of your dedication exercises commemorating the settling of Stratford by the Beardsley Family, together with 15 other families, who were the first settlers of our town in 1639.

It is an added pleasure for me to also greet you as a fellow descendant of William and Mary Beardsley.

William Beardsley was my great-great-great-great-great grandfather.

I am especially pleased to welcome those who have come to Stratford to-day from other states beyond Connecticut.

We are glad to have you with us and we hope you will enjoy your visit, even though it may be only of short duration.

I am glad also to welcome you who are real 100% Americans.

It was here, 300 years ago, that our pioneering ancestors, as one of a group of 17 families assisted in founding the present Town of Stratford, a town which

has grown to a community of some 24000 people.

It is here that you and I, the descendants of the Beardsley Family, 300 years later, dedicate to-day this boulder in honor of our Beardsley ancestors and those other first settlers who landed here in 1639.

It was they who had the courage and tenacity to establish themselves here and it was they who had the fortitude to endure the privations and hardships which confronted them as pioneers settling in virgin, wooded and uncultivated country.

It required the most sturdy pioneers to establish a township and often times the most determined were discouraged.

Our first settlers must have been of sturdy stock and strong character to have withstood the adversities which confronted them in their endeavors to found this town, then a wilderness.

We, as descendants of one of the first families to settle here, are proud of the part played by the Beardsley Family in settling Stratford

Stratford is equally proud and grateful to those first settlers who came here and settled this town, which we who live here, enjoy so much. It is the Beardsley Family and those first settlers whom we honor to-day. The citizens of Stratford are most appreciative and grateful to those, through whose initiative and efforts, the Town of Stratford was brought into being.

I hope that the descendants of the other first settlers who landed and settled here, will follow the example set to-day by the Beardsley Family in honoring their own kin.

As a Beardsley descendant, I am of

course, glad to have the Beardsley Family take the lead in holding commemorative exercises in memory of our first settlers, and I am sure that we, the Beardsley descendants, all rejoice that there was a Beardsley Family among the first settlers. At least nobody can accuse us of waiting for some one else to do all the hard work and then settling down here.

Our ancestors were those who helped in the real work of founding this town.

They did not come afterwards.

When I think of the courage and the determination, the privations and hardships which were required of our ancestors, I sometimes wonder, with all our modern conveniences of the home, our fast and easy means of transportation and communication, which so shorten our hours of work and so lessen our labor, if we to-day could withstand the hardships and handicaps which beset those who settled here in 1639.

We who live here and enjoy Stratford have much to be grateful for toward those sturdy old settlers who struggled so long and so hard, who cut and hewed the heavy timber and brush, who tilled and cultivated the soil and overcome all obstacles to give us this town in which we live.

We who enjoy our town have much to be thankful for and it is to those first pioneers to whom all credit is due.

I trust that you who do not live in Stratford and who come from other communities or distant states appreciate that this town is the town YOUR ancestors established. We want you to have a common interest in it with us. We want you to feel that it is a town you may be proud to claim as one which your ancestors helped to establish.

I think those ancestors of ours did a very fine job when they selected this spot on the banks of the old Housatonic to settle a town. They showed very good judgment. They chose well. I wish more people to-day had some of that good old Yankee "horse sense" which our ancestors used so often to good advantage. Maybe we wouldn't be in the midst of a depression to-day if a little more of it were used in deciding national issues.

It is a strange coincidence that the Town of Stratford should have one of its distinguished citizens elected as the Governor of our state at the time of its 300th anniversary. I'm sorry he couldn't be here this afternoon to meet and greet you. Governor Baldwin is the first Stratford resident to be elected to the governorship of the state and we rejoice both in his selection as the governor and his holding that position during our 300th birthday celebration.

I am glad so many of the Beardsley Family have come here to-day, and I want to again welcome you in behalf of the Town of Stratford and its good citizens.

We invite you all to come back and make a longer visit with us. None have a better right to the hospitalities of the town than you whose ancestors were so responsible for its founding. Our latch string hangs outside the door to you at all times. We want you to come back and enjoy yourselves, back here to the town your own folks founded, back in 1639, 300 years ago.

You are always welcome to Stratford.

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL.

by
Dr. Lewis G. Beardsley.

By virtue of my office of president of the Beardsley Family Association, I now dedicate this memorial to the memory of William and Mary Beardsley and the other first settlers of Stratford.

This memorial represents the courage and spirit of those men and women who founded not only this town of Stratford, but our country as a whole.

May it remain throughout the ages as a symbol of their ever-lasting faith.

ADDRESS

by
Rev. William A. Beardsley

"As are families, so is society".

Somewhere I recall reading those words not long ago, and it occurred to me that they might well stand as the text for my address to-day, for they so clearly and definitely place the family in its relation to society, as to its character and quality, upon the family.

The appropriateness of that thought becomes apparent as we think of the significance of these commemorative exercises.

Of late we have been passing through a series of anniversaries marking the completion of three hundred years of life and progress here in Connecticut, first that of the State itself, and then that of Hartford and New Haven.

Earlier celebrations were in Windsor and Wethersfield, for by a few years they

top all others in age. Now we have come to that galaxy of towns scattered along our Connecticut shore, Guilford, Milford, Stratford, Fairfield, which, because they have gained their three hundredth mile post this year, are making suitable recognition of that historic fact.

It is with Stratford's celebration that we are for the moment concerned. As there are wheels within wheels, so are there celebrations within celebrations. We rejoice, of course, with the citizens of Stratford in their larger commemoration, but we who are descendants of one of Stratford's first settlers have come hither to do honor to him, and in so doing do honor to Stratford, for in honoring one of those who helped to lay the foundation of this fine old town we are assuredly honoring the town itself.

Among those who drifted down here to this favored spot where the Housatonic River, after languidly winding its way across two states, at last mingles its waters with those of Long Island Sound, a spot known to the Indians as Cupheag, was one William Beardsley.

With a goodly number of other fellow-adventurers, he embarked from London in April 1635, in the ship Planter.

He was coming to stay for he brought along his family with him, his wife and three children.

Somewhere in the Massachusetts Colony he landed, for on December 7, 1636, he was made a freeman in that Colony.

When I spoke of his drifting down here I spoke advisedly, for in 1639 we find him with others, coming to Stratford.

Perhaps however, drifting is not just the word, for that rather suggests an indeterminate purpose, and I suspect that

when once in Stratford was their goal there was no longer anything indeterminate as to their purpose.

The settlement of some of our towns, perhaps most of them, was effected by companies especially organized for the purpose in England. That was not so in the case of Stratford, which seems to have been more of an individualistic enterprise. Whatever may have been the dominant motivating force which sent them out here, plainly they came to stay, for they brought their families. There was the desire, no doubt, for greater religious freedom, but they were hard-headed practical people, possessing the spirit of venture, pioneers seeking a new home in a new land, which they hoped would be to them a land of opportunity, as indeed it was.

On the Planter's roster, William Beardsley is listed as a mason. The occupation of several others is also given, such as shoemaker, tailor, husbandman, mercer, linen weaver. They were prepared, you see, to meet their own needs. And so our ancestor was a builder? Yes, he was a builder. As a matter of fact those early settlers were builders, builders in wood and stone, yes, but builders in the larger sense, builders in the ideals and principles which enter into the construction of the State, builders of the State.

How nobly they wrought! I like to think of our ancestor in his capacity as a mason, as an artisan whose strength and skill contributed to the comfort and protection of his fellow-settlers. There may be no trace of his handiwork standing here in Stratford, no identifiable trace, but if such be the case it is because of the ravages of time and not because of poor

workmanship, let us believe. Three hundred years are none too merciful even to the best products of the best craftsman.

Well, the infant settlement grew, and with its growth and development came civic duties, more responsibilities in the State and to the State. We find him a Deputy to the General Court at Hartford, which, as I understand it, corresponds to our General Assembly, eight times from 1645 to 1659. Such repeated service speaks well for his capabilities, and more than that it bears ample witness to the confidence which his fellow-citizens placed in him.

In the last year in which he served he was one of a Committee of four to consider what was possibly a difficult and delicate matter, namely, "the state and condition" of a man and his wife, and to "order what you think suitable therein", what the Committee thinks suitable, that is. Here he is called Goodman Beardsley, a title which is not without its significance, "a title frequently applied in the earlier records to citizens of solid worth and respectability."

I am inclined to think that this matter which he and the others were called upon to adjudicate, may have been a matter relating to property.

It is, of course, a source of regret that we know so little about our ancestor, that so few details of his life have been preserved for us. However, the little that we do know justifies us in thinking that he was a man of influence, and a man of substance. It sometimes happens that way you know. The inventory of his estate amounted to something over three hundred and thirty-three pounds. That does not

quite put him into the millionaire class of to-day, but as money went it was a tidy sum.

When William Beardsley came to these shores he was thirty years old, just in the prime of his manhood. He died at what we may call the early age of fifty-six, but not before he had become the father of nine children. We have here then the beginning of that stream which has issued forth and spread over all the land.

William Beardsley is the progenitor of all our family here in America. It is with pardonable pride that we remind ourselves that, not only here in Connecticut, but throughout the whole land descendants of William Beardsley have played their part, and no mean part has it been, in building up this nation which we love and honor, in developing and strengthening its social order.

"As are families, so is society". Society is what families make it. Has our family made any contribution to society? I like to think that it has made a most valuable contribution through the years in all departments of human activity. It is true that society is not all that we could wish it to be, and perhaps at times we get a bit discouraged at the outlook, but in spite of all discouragements I do honestly believe that it is moving on and up.

I do honestly believe that we are recreant to that faith which brought man here at first, brought our ancestors here, and drove them to conquer the wilderness and people the waste places, that we are recreant to that faith, I say, when we bewail the slow progress we are making, perhaps say we are making no progress, not in material things, but in those finer truer things which gild and glorify all life.

Friends and relatives, we are gathered here to-day to do honor to William and Mary Beardsley, who, three hundred years ago, left their native land to emigrate to these shores, and found, and help to found, Stratford on the Housatonic.

We honor them especially, but we do not forget the others who accompanied them hither. They are all worthy of our honor, but you will understand that our thoughts are first on William Beardsley and his wife Mary.

Here we have placed this memorial to mark the coming of those early settlers.

We like to think that it is the symbol of the strength, and ruggedness and stability of their character, yes, of the character of the family that issued from them and now spreads over all this broad land.

William Beardsley was a builder, I like to dwell on that thought, a builder of houses, of homes, and so a builder of families, a builder of the State, that is, of the Nation, to which, wherever we may be throughout the length and breadth of the land, we pledge our loyalty, and in the ardency of our devotion exclaim:-
"Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee, -- are all with thee!"

MICHIGAN BEARDSLEE-LEY REUNION.

The twelfth annual reunion of the Beardslee-Ley Families of Michigan was held Saturday, August 12, 1939, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Samuel T. Beardslee, 6649 Pine Knob Road, Clarkston, Michigan.

The day was ushered in with dark clouds and frequent showers which was not very encouraging for those who had from 50 to 100 miles to drive, but the sun appeared about noon, by which time 75 had registered. At 1:30 a bountiful and delicious co-operative dinner was spread on long tables in the shade of the large trees on the lawn. This was enjoyed by all.

This was followed by a business meeting. In the absence of the president, Clinton Beardslee of Caro, the vice-president Charles Beardslee, presided.

Rev. Hill of White Lake gave the invocation.

The following officers were elected:
President.

William Beardslee Hart, Ortonville, Mich.
Vice-president.

Charles Beardslee, Highland Park, Mich.
Secretary and treasurer.

Mrs. Carrie Beardslee Larned,
1113 Olivia Ave., Ann Arbor, Mich.

Charles Simerson of Davisburg gave a short history of the early settlers of Michigan. He told how his grandfather, Thomas Beardslee, his wife and six children came from New Jersey in 1831 via the Erie Canal to Buffalo, thence across Lake Erie to Detroit. There he bought a yoke of oxen and a wagon and journeyed to Royal Oak and thence to Southfield, where his brother George lived.

From there he went 25 miles north.

to Sashabaw Plains and settled on section 26, Independence township. While he was building his log house the family stayed at the home of his nephew John Wheeler Beardslee, who had come to Michigan the previous year and settled on the banks of the Sashabaw Creek.

It was a task to take little children through wild wooded country, with a yoke of oxen which could not travel more than three miles an hour, but they possessed indomitable courage and fortitude made possible by their faith in their divine Creator.

Mrs. Larned gave a detailed report of the reunion which she had attended in Stratford, Conn. in June and July, 1939.

Rev. Hill made a few remarks relating to the strong, influential characters of our ancestors.

Several of those present joined the Beardslee-ley Family Association of America, which was organized at the reunion held in Stratford, Connecticut.

Representatives were there from sixteen towns and cities, and one member, Mrs. Minnie Beardslee Keys came from New Jersey.

The oldest person present was Mrs. Lida Green of Pontiac, aged 90 years. The youngest, David Tarr, aged 22 months,

The next reunion will be held at the same place on the second Saturday in August, 1940. All Beardslee-ley descendants are cordially invited to attend.

Mrs. Carrie Beardslee Larned,
1113 Olivia Ave., Ann Arbor, Mich.

GENEALOGICAL QUESTIONS.

Information about the following is desired by Mrs. Nellie Beardsley Holt, 10 Sunset Terrace, West Hartford, Conn. for the compiling of the Beardslee-ley Family Genealogy, and by those making the enquiries.

1. Wanted, ancestry of Sophia Beardsley, b. Sept. 8, 1790; d. Feb. 25, 1824, Warsaw, N.Y. m. John Wilcox (1st wife). He died Aug. 11, 1854, age 63 years.
Mrs. N. H. Storck,
Storm Lake, Iowa.
2. Wanted, ancestry of John Wells Beardsley, b. July 3, 1776; m. Dec. 13, 1806, to Elizabeth Tuthill in Goshen, N.Y.
Mrs. Edith Whitney Shaw,
726 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
3. Wanted, ancestry of James Henry Beardsley b. 1834; d. 1888, New Britain, Conn. m. 1855, Harriet Bacon, b. 1833, Bristol, Ct. d. 1865, buried Thomaston, Conn. He had 3 sisters and 5 brothers.
Mrs. Charles B. Russell,
Newington, Conn.
4. Wanted, ancestry of Hannah Beardsley who married - - Dart; her sister Charlotte John Lyons. They lived somewhere in the vicinity of Stratford or Huntington Connecticut.
Mrs. Harry Rylander,
56 Haynes Street, Manchester, Conn.

GENEALOGICAL QUESTIONS.

5. Information about the descendants of John Beardsley b. 1760, Stratford, Conn. d. Manlius or Whitestown, N.Y.; m. 1779, Jerusha Beach of Stratford, Conn.
Mrs. Carl S. Dunnington,
Cherokee, Oklahoma.
6. Ancestry of James F. Beardsley of Conn.
m. (1) Mar. 13, 1809, Christy Ann Dick.
(2) Sept. 23, 1822, Charity Ann Vorce,
d. Feb. 23, 1824, ae. 42 yrs.
buried Monroe, Conn.
(3) July 5, 1825, Hannah Downes.
7. Any information about Andrew Beardsley who lived in Wells, Vt. about 1730-90 and is supposed to have moved to New York State.
8. Ancestry of Harvey Beardsley b. about 1800; he married Lydia Martin. They lived in Richfield, Otsego co., N.Y.
9. Names of children of Aaron Beardslee died July 22, 1835, Trumbull, Conn.
m. Feb. 10, 1788/9, Sally Wakelee.
He served in the Revolutionary War.
10. Ancestry of Joseph Beardsley
b. Feb. 22, 1757, Huntington, Conn.
d. about 1833, Huntington, Conn.
Served in the Revolutionary War.
11. Information about the descendants of Maj. James Beardsley, b. 1758; d. 1843, buried, Long Hill, Conn. He married Ruth Summers who died 1860, ae. 98 years

Membership in the Beardsley Family Association.

Any descendant of William Beardsley and his wife Mary, who came to America in the year 1635, and were associated with the first settlers of Stratford, Connecticut in 1639, who shall pay the annual dues of fifty-cents, may, if approved by the Board of Directors, become a member of this Association and shall be entitled to all its rights and privileges.

The wives and husbands of members of this Association, shall be associate members without payment of dues, but shall not be entitled to any voice in its management.

Send application and dues to,
Mrs. Nellie Beardsley Holt, Sec. & Treas.,
10 Sunset Terrace, West Hartford, Conn.

It is planned to issue future bulletins and items of interest, to the Beardsley Family, will be appreciated.

Do not fail to send in your family records, otherwise they will not be mentioned in the Beardsley Genealogy.

Additional copies of this bulletin may be purchased for twenty-five cents.

Issued by
Nellie Beardsley Holt.