

Read at Tracy Reunion in Gouldsborough, Me.

Putnam, Conn.,

Aug. 13, 1899

Friends and Kindred

of the Tracy reunion: Greeting:

It was a happy thought that led a few kindred-descendants of Jonathan Tracy-to meet socially in remembrance and commemoration of their pioneer ancestor and first Tracy settler of Maine. It should always be and remain a proud and happy day in the hearts of the people who assemble at the Tracy reunion on this consecrated ground--consecrated by the pioneer spirit, enterprise and industry of this noble, self-sacrificing ancestor--Jonathan Tracy. And would it not be well to pause and reflect what this pioneer spirit accomplished? What it had to endure and suffer in an unbroken wilderness to make life pleasant and enjoyable to-day? Clearings had to be made in the then unbroken forests, cabins erected for shelter and home and land brought into productive condition to sustain human life. What strenuous toil and self-denial accomplished, the needs of the hand nor pen can picture or tongue tell! Such endurance and achievement are worthy of high praise and we all should feel proud of our name and lineage; indeed each should be an incentive to noble endeavor and worthy achievement. Our name, according to Judge Frederick P. Tracy of California who spent two years in Europe in antiquarian and genealogical research, was taken from the Castle of Tracy in Normandy in the arrondissement of Caden on the bank of the Orne, the ruins of which are yet visible.

The descendants of our common ancestor Lieut. Thomas Tracy who settled in Norwich, Conn., in 1660 and was one of the two witnesses to the deed given by Uncles, have made honorable record in every profession, business and industry. There have been many in the legal profession who have won honor and distinction in both law and politics. Uriah Tracy, an able and accomplished lawyer of Litchfield, Conn., did honorable service in the U. S. Senate. Phineas S. and Albert Haller Tracy were able and conspicuous members of the bar and were actively engaged in politics holding important and influential positions in the state and national affairs. Albert H. had choice intellectual gifts and it is said by those who knew him, that he was the counterpart "in mien, size, bearing, visage and conversation" to Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration. Then there was John Tracy, lawyer and member of the N. Y. legislation, Lieut. Governor of the state for six years. Charles and William Tracy of California, able and accomplished lawyers, won their laurels most at the bar. Frederick P. Tracy of California, at first a Methodist minister, and afterward an able advocate and judge, was renowned for his thrilling oratory; and Benjamin F., farmer, lawyer and cabinet minister, stands conspicuously foremost among his compeers in his own day. It would be impossible at the present time to enumerate or mention the names of the Tracy family whose professional services have been devoted to the law. And it is nearly true also of medicine and divinity. There were Tracy physicians succeeding one another in the town of Norwich, Conn., for more than a hundred years, the first being Dr. Solomon, and the last Dr. Richard Tracy, brother of Edward Dorr Tracy of Georgia and Albert H. and Phineas S.

There have been many clergy in several denominations and missionaries without number, all devoted and successful. Many eminent and successful teachers and educators. Calvin Tracy, graduated at Dartmouth College, was the author of a series of arithmetical works and principal of a classical school for years. Then there was Cyrus Mason Tracy, a distinguished botanist--and John Martin Tracy, the artist whose daughter contributed to Munsey's magazine. Then there were a host of patriotic and heroic men of the Tracy clan who gave their services to their country during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Forty-one in the little state of Connecticut alone, shouldered the musket and helped the patriotic side in the war for Independence; and during the Civil War the clan was numerous in the ranks of the Union Army from the free states, for the maintenance of the Union and National government--men, brave, heroic--defenders of national integrity and honor. But why enumerate? Our lineage is long and illustrious. It should give us courage and hope and lofty aspirations. Inspire a love and interest in our ancestry. Burke said that "he only deserved to be remembered by Posterity who treasures up and preserves the history of his ancestry". It is well and profitable and enjoyable to have these yearly gatherings: it creates an interest in one another and gives a spirit of good-fellowship and good-will to all.

I salute you all, wish a hearty enthusiasm and good-will wishing you health, happiness and prosperity.

Gilbert A. Tracy