

1915

## Dedication Week at Hebron

W. E. Sargent

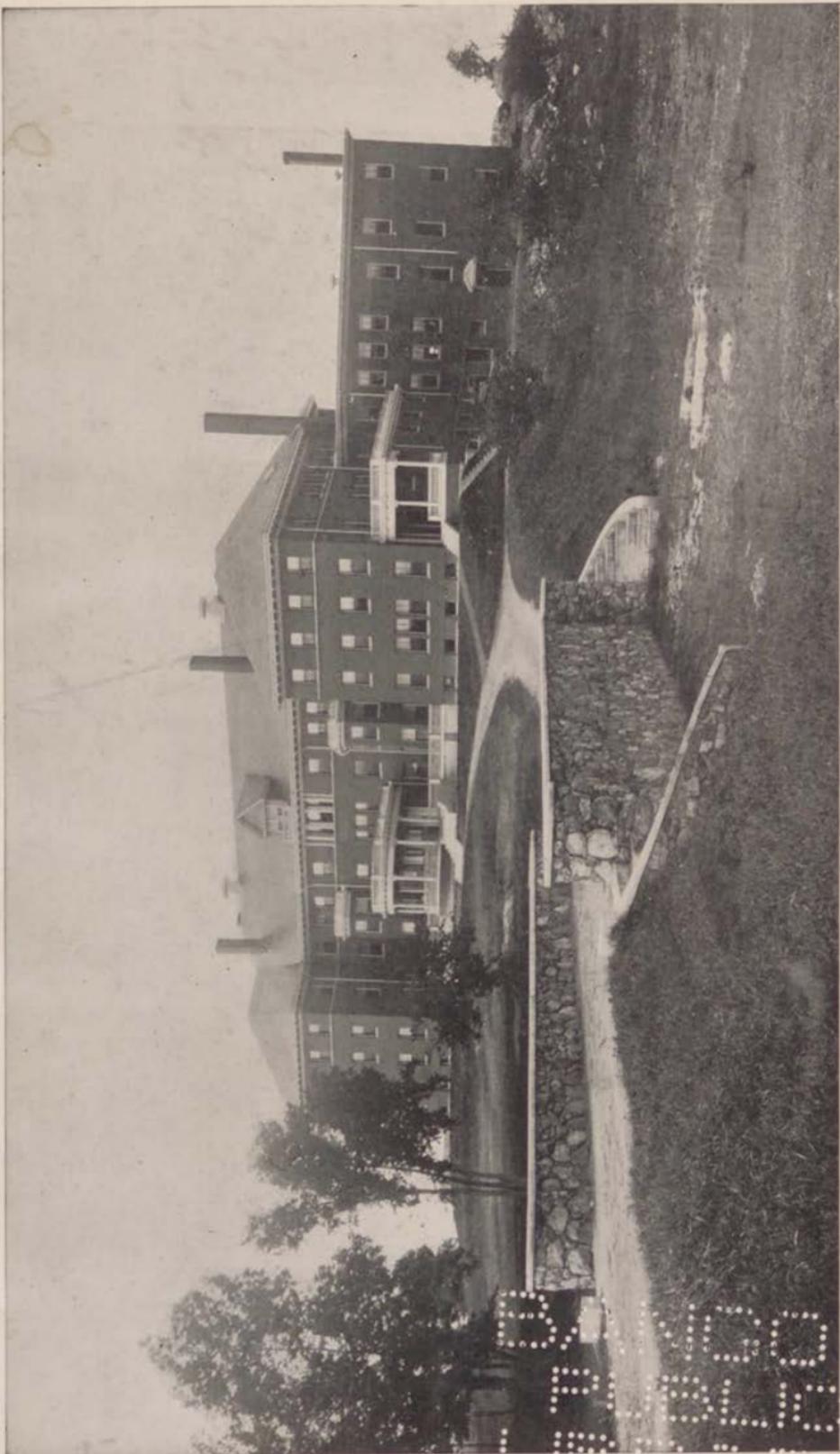
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### Recommended Citation

Sargent, W. E., "Dedication Week at Hebron" (1915). *Books and Publications*. 164.  
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STURTEVANT HOME AND BRIDGE

# Dedication Week at Hebron

[Taken from The Watchman, June, 1900]

The country is the ideal location for a Christian academy. More especially is this true in the present day, when the unhealthy tendency is so irresistibly toward the piling up of the population in the great cities. Hebron Academy, three miles from the railway station of West Minot, on one of the high hill summits of Oxford County, Maine, with the White Mountain range and Mt. Washington in full view forty-five miles away, could not be more beautifully situated. In the pure air of this hill country, apart



MRS. B. F. STURTEVANT

from the stress and strife of the great world competition, the chances are at their best for the production of upright and sturdy character. No one with the least love of nature can fail to be touched by this environment; and Hebron bears the Christian character one would expect to find in such a student retreat, a community by itself, occupied with high ideals of life and ani-

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mated by worthy ambitions and aspirations. It is a delight to visit such a school and look into the faces of the young men and women who are here preparing for a useful life.

The Academy has an honorable record. It is the oldest of the four fitting schools connected with Colby College, and one of the best feeders of that institution. The Academy was founded by Deacon William Barrows, a soldier of the Revolution, who settled in Hebron, in 1791. He not only organized a Baptist church, but a Baptist academy, the latter being incorporated in 1804. He belonged to the class of whom it is said that "if a colony of New England people should be planted on the remote frontier in any quarter of the globe, within twenty-four hours they would have a church under cover on the most available corner, and a schoolhouse on the nearest knoll." School was opened September 3, 1805, in a one-story structure 30x50, with 65 scholars, and a son of Deacon Barrows, a Dartmouth graduate, in charge. In 1846 the old building was replaced by a new one, of two stories, which cost the large sum of \$520, in addition to the materials taken from the old structure. In 1874 the Academy affiliated with Colby, and some ten years later, when Mr. Benjamin F. Sturtevant, of Jamaica Plain, became interested in the school, the new era dawned. Today Sturtevant Hall, a handsome \$30,000 recitation building of stone and brick, stands on the site of the crude beginnings, while near by is a gymnasium of ample proportions; and on an adjoining eminence rises one of the stateliest and most attractive dormitories that can be found on any campus of academy or college in New England or the States at large.

It was this new building—Sturtevant Home, which is to be occupied by the young women, and is also to furnish a capacious dining-hall for all the students—that was to be dedicated in connection with the ninety-fourth Commencement. The cut given herewith shows the exterior. The building stands at right angles to Sturtevant Hall, and is of the same general style of architecture. The low ground of the campus lying between the buildings has been beautified by the skill of the engineer, and a stone bridge in the hollow adds picturesqueness to the scene, which is exceed-

ingly attractive. Off in one direction can be seen Poland Spring House, on its lofty crest, while to the west rises the snowy summit of Mt. Washington. The home has a commanding site. The walls are of brick, with red granite trimmings, while the porticoes are in white. The main building is 164x50, with two projecting wings, and a kitchen wing 35x52. The main floor has a broad hallway, and is devoted to spacious parlors, a reading-room, a suite for Mrs. Sturtevant, the donor, and a great dining-hall 65x35, with two recessed nooks and fire-place, giving the whole a most homelike effect. Indeed, the home idea is seen everywhere. Mrs. Sturtevant did not intend to erect a mere dormitory, but to make a center of culture, with the atmosphere of a beautiful home. The rooms are large and have ample closet space, the best ventilating system known has been put in, the heat is by steam and the lighting by electricity, and no expense has been spared to make this a model home for students. The wood work and finish are of the best throughout, and the \$70,000 represents honest work and architectural skill. The Home was completed in readiness for occupancy at the opening of the fall term in September, 1900. It accommodates eighty girls, and can easily be made to furnish rooms for many more, if necessary, as the whole third floor is now devoted to the student societies.

On Tuesday, dedication day, the services were held at two o'clock in the Baptist church. The house was crowded with students and friends, the 46 members of the graduating class, evenly divided as to sex, occupying the front pews. Mrs. Sturtevant, with Mr. and Mrs. Eugene N. Foss, her son-in-law and daughter, were on the platform with the speakers. The presiding officer was Judge Percival Bonney, of Portland, president of the Board of Trustees, and a benediction to the students, in whose welfare he has always taken the deepest interest. His face commonly wreathed in smiles, was if possible, more smiling than ever on this day of the realization of his hopes for the school. The opening prayer was by the pastor, Dr. Crane. The dedicatory address was made by Rev. Howard B. Grose, of the First Church of Jamaica Plain, of which Mrs. Sturtevant is a member. He spoke of the invisible realm of ideas lying back of the material and



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visible, of what idea-power has wrought in the life of the world and on this continent, and then of the idea underlying the foundation of Sturtevant Hall and Sturtevant Home. This idea is Christian culture as the creator of a patriotic, pure and intelligent manhood and womanhood that shall preserve all that is best in our present civilization and lead our race forward in the struggle toward a yet higher plane of thought and action. In closing he said:

It is because Hebron Academy stands for Christian education, which is the making of true manhood and womanhood, that we are met here today to dedicate this splendid structure which is to bear the name of Sturtevant Home. It means much to dedicate such a building to such a purpose. Institutions such as this are permanent, and the life built into these seats of culture saves itself from evanescence. The influence of beneficence is as immortal as the soul. The true way to perpetuate self on this planet is to become linked in association with an institution which touches the higher interests of the race. To the students who shall come and go through the generations while this academy exists, the names of its noble benefactors will be held in grateful and reverent remembrance, and the influence of their generosity will be an illimitable inspiration.

The keys were then presented to the Trustees by Mr. Foss, who represented Mrs. Sturtevant. He said:

Sixty-seven years ago last January a little lad was born into a very humble home not far from here. His early childhood and youth were passed on the farm with not even the advantages which a district school afforded—one term of six weeks being the only opportunity of attending school. The very few books which he managed to obtain were eagerly devoured by the light of the fire-place, after a hard day's work on the farm. In his youth he was apprenticed to a shoe-maker, and before he was twenty years of age had invented the shoe-pegging machine which has revolutionized the shoe industry of the world. He went to Boston with the model of his invention in one hand, and his scanty wardrobe in the other, and gave his last twenty cents to a hackman to take him to a cheap lodging-house. The success which came to him in the development of his many inventions was attended with great hardships and many discouragements; but his indomitable will overcame all obstacles. Benjamin F. Sturtevant was a self-made, self-educated man. His absorbing love of knowledge made him a great student of history, literature and art. He could repeat whole plays of Shakespeare and pages of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." The wealth which came with his business success was freely given during his life-time to religious and educational work. The lack of early advantages stimulated him to assist others, and naturally his heart

went out to the youth of his native State. He believed in the work of the academy, which appealed to him in a greater degree than the higher education of the university. While he gave liberally to other institutions, I know he was especially interested in Hebron. The location in the country, away from the contaminating influences of city life, fulfilled his idea of what the surroundings of a school should be. He did not live to witness the dedication of the building which bears his name, but the wife, who shared with him his reverses and successes, has watched with loving interest the work and growth of this institution. So impressed has she been with the possibilities of this school under the faithful and efficient leadership of its honored principal, that she has supplemented the gift of her late husband with this beautiful, commodious building, which we dedicate to-day.

This structure is designed to be more than a mere dormitory, a mere dwelling-place where students come and go in independence of each other. The full desire of its donor will only be realized when it becomes a *home* in all that the word means. Unity of interest and spirit, mutual helpfulness and forbearance will then play their part in developing all that is best in the nature of woman.

The formal presentation of these keys is, therefore, far more than a mere token of transference of ownership. With them passes from donor to trustees a responsibility which I know you willingly assume in full realization of its character. May this "Home" ever be a supplement to all your work of teaching which shall serve to round out the character and give honor to the graduates of Hebron Academy. It gives me, therefore, great pleasure, on behalf of Mrs. Sturtevant, to present to you the keys of the Sturtevant Home.

Principal William E. Sargent, who has been at the head of the Academy for the past fifteen years, received the keys on behalf of the Board.

In addition to the speeches, there was a congratulatory poem by Dr. G. M. P. King, formerly President of Wayland Seminary, at Washington, who was a Hebron boy so long ago that dates need not be brought forward to embarrass him. All felt that the day was a great one for Hebron, and all joined in honoring Mrs. Sturtevant, who has placed the institution on a new plane of influence—for such a home means not only more advantages to the present students, but more students in future, when these superb accommodations are known and the wholesome and Christian character of the Academy's life and work more widely recognized, as they are bound to be.

And this magnificent structure made possible by the generosity of a noble woman, is a gift, not to the school alone, but to the boys and girls everywhere in Oxford County, our State and New England, in order that the best home influence and environment may be given, not to the child of the prosperous parent alone, but to the child of the humblest home in Maine if he is willing to make an *effort* for an education. And the cost to occupants of this splendid building will not be larger than the cost of rooms to girls of former years.

For our benefactors and the Trustees are determined that Hebron Academy shall *continue* to offer its advantages to that class of people from whose ranks have come her noblest and most famous sons and daughters.

Send for catalogue to

W. E. SARGENT, PRINCIPAL,

HEBRON, MAINE.

HEBRON ACADEMY, July, 1915.