



Geo. D. Savage

The following is the copy of a petition asking to have the annual meeting held in March, 1784, legalized:

"STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,

"To the Hon^{ble} the General Assembly of the State of New Hampshire:

"The petition of the Subscribers chosen Select-men of the Gore, in the County of Strafford, in said State, Humbly Shews,—

"That the Inhabitants of the Gore aforesaid held an annual Meeting in March last past, when they chose Select-men, Collector, &c., as usual at such meetings, but as their power of holding meetings ceased with the late proportion Act, their transactions were void, of Course.

"Wherefore your petitioners pray that the Choice of the Town Officers, and other proceedings at said annual Meeting may be established, and the trouble and expense of another prevented.

"JOSEPH ROBERTS.

"JOSEPH PIERCE.

"ELIZABETH DAVIS."

This petition resulted in the passage of the following resolution, legalizing annual meeting:

"STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

"In the House of Representatives, Octo. 29, 1784.

"Whereas the Select-men of the Gore (so called), in the County of Strafford, have petitioned the General Court, setting forth that the inhabitants of said Gore, in March last, held a meeting & chose all officers as usual to assess & collect their Taxes, but as their power of holding meetings ceased with the late proportion act, their proceedings were void, wherefore they prayed that the choice of officers & other proceedings at said Annual Meeting might be established.

"Therefore Resolved, That the meeting held in said Gore, in March last, be established, and the officers chosen to assess & collect their Taxes are hereby fully authorized & empowered to transact the necessary business of their respective offices as fully as if said Proportion Act had continued in force through the current year.

"And the officers chosen at said meeting are hereby empowered to call a meeting for the purposes aforesaid, sometime in March next; And the officers for the respective years to call meetings annually to choose such necessary officers until a new proportion of the State Taxes shall be made. Sent up for Concurrence.

"Geo. Atkinson, Speaker.

"In Senate, October 30, 1784, read & Concurred,

"M. WEAVER, President."

At the first town-meeting after the town was incorporated it was voted to build an "Orthodox Congregational Meeting-House." The frame of this church was raised in the fall of 1797, but it was never entirely finished. Meetings were held in it, however, more or less, until about 1849, when it was sold for a town-house.

In 1798 the town voted to raise one hundred and sixty-six dollars for the support of the gospel ministry, and about this time the Rev. Mr. Whipple was employed to preach, and remained here two years.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

MAJOR GEORGE D. SAVAGE.

Major George D. Savage was born in New Durham, N. H., March 7, 1818. His father, Captain Benjamin Savage, was one of the sturdy pioneer yeomanry of the State, and his mother was descended from a like ancestry. Major Savage was the oldest of ten children, eight of whom lived to adult life.

His boyhood and youth and part of his early manhood were spent on his father's farm. After he had attained sufficient age, the winter months were spent in teaching school. He early evinced great ardor for military life, and as a boy and young man, took much interest in the militia trainings and musters of half a century ago. As soon as old enough he enlisted in the State militia and gradually rose to the rank of major, and served in that capacity a number of years. The title thus obtained clung to him through life, and he was known far and near till the time of his death as Major Savage, notwithstanding the fact that he was promoted to a higher rank during the War of the Rebellion.

In 1849 he moved to Alton, N. H., and engaged successfully in shoemaking, merchandising and hotel-keeping, being proprietor of the Cocheco House about twenty-five years, where he achieved the reputation of being one of the most genial and popular Bonifaces in the State. He was active, generous-hearted and public-spirited, and was held in the highest esteem by those who knew him best. The projection and building of the Cocheco Railroad was largely due to his enterprise and influence. In politics he was a prominent, active Republican, sagacious in council, bold in utterance and uncompromising in his political principles.

When war sounded its dread alarms, and the call came for more troops to defend the nation's flag, the old military ardor was once more aroused, and with the cry of "Come, boys!" Major Savage offered his services in his country's cause. Says one writer, "The history of the raising of the Twelfth New Hampshire Regiment is too well known to be repeated. The fabled Cadmus sowed dragon's teeth and raised a crop of men, but we are ignorant of the time it took to mature that crop. Colonel Whipple, Colonel Stevens and Major Savage sowed the seeds of patriotism and loyalty, and in four days a thousand men, as loyal as ever stood, was the result."

Mythology was eclipsed by reality. The major of militia was commissioned major of volunteers. They were enlisted September 17, 1862, and went at once to the front. His regiment went into action in the battle of Fredericksburg, and at Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863, as Major Savage was repeating orders from the colonel, he was shot through the jaw by a sharpshooter, which shot nearly cost him his life. After partially recovering from the wound he returned to the regiment and remained until honorably discharged, May 28, 1864. He was promoted to a lieutenant-colonelcy February 5, 1864. At the same time he was wounded at Chancellorsville, his brother Henry, captain of Company A, in the same regiment, was killed. The military career of Major Savage was perhaps not distinguished by superior generalship or his knowledge of correct military manoeuvres or tactics, but many a sick and weary soldier was cheered by his kind words and hearty

sympathy, he often dismounting from his horse to give such one a ride or carry his knapsack. He possessed in an eminent degree those qualities of heart that served to endear him to the members of his regiment, and his memory is tenderly cherished by every surviving comrade.

After returning to private life (1864) he was appointed a deputy sheriff, which position he held to 1880. In 1861-62 he was a member of the State Legislature. In 1866 he was elected railroad commissioner for three years. He was a member of the Masonic order and the first Commander of the G. A. R. Post at Alton. Few men were better known in the State, and perhaps none had more friends. He died of consumption at his home in Alton, February 17, 1883, leaving five children who still survive (1885),—Mrs. John W. Currier, Mrs. George F. Jones, Mrs. Charles H. Downing, George Frank (who is proprietor of the Cochecho House, so long kept by his father) and Miss Jessie Savage.

AMOS L. ROLLINS.

Amos L. Rollins was born in the town of Alton, N. H., December 11, 1826. His father, Ichabod Rollins, Jr., was a farmer and died when Amos was but nineteen years of age. His grandfather, also named Ichabod, was one of the earliest settlers in the town of Alton, whither he came from Newington, N. H.

Amos L. was brought up as a farmer's son, receiving only such educational advantages as were to be obtained at the common schools of the village. He has done more or less at husbandry all his life; but for many years his time has been chiefly taken up with the public business of the town.

The first official duty to which he was chosen was that of town clerk, which position he held five years. In 1862 he was elected second selectman of Alton, and in 1864 was chosen chairman of the board, and that position he has held each consecutive year to the present writing (1885). He has also held the office of moderator for twenty-one years in succession, and the office of town treasurer seventeen years. He was chosen a member of the Constitutional Convention which met at Concord, 1876. He has been county commissioner three years, and has been treasurer of the Alton Five-Cents Savings-Bank from its organization to the present time.

He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity since 1866, and was secretary of the order four years.

In political affiliation he is a Republican, and in religion a Free-Will Baptist, and has been superintendent of the Sunday-school three years.

He married, in Alton, December 25, 1851, Sarah E. Kimball. They had five children,—three sons and two daughters. In 1866 he lost two of his sons aged nine and one year respectively, by diphtheria. Mrs. Rollins died April 23, 1871, leaving Mr. Rollins

with a family of three children. His second marriage was to Permelia A. Pendergast, of Barnstead, N. H., June 14, 1872. March 29, 1875, he lost his only remaining son by consumption. At present his family consists of wife and two daughters, one of whom, the elder, is married and lives in Manchester, N. H.; the younger resides with her father.

The best evidence of the esteem in which Mr. Rollins is held by his neighbors and townsmen is shown by the various positions of office and trust in which they have placed him. Probably no man who has ever lived in the town of Alton has filled so long and ably the various offices of the town, or made more personal sacrifices for the welfare of its people. In whatever position he has been placed he has sought neither personal emolument or aggrandizement, but simply and solely to do his whole duty.

His advice and counsel are sought constantly in the multiform perplexities that arise in the course of daily life and business, and is candidly and freely given. There is, probably, no one who knows Mr. Rollins who would for one moment doubt his sincerity or candor in any opinion he might express. He is widely known and highly respected throughout the State. The family from which he sprang is an ancient and honorable one in the annals of New England. It has furnished men who have filled ably the public trusts of our land, men who have worn with credit and ability the judicial ermine, men who have stood high in the councils of the nation; but it has furnished no better representative of the pure, high-minded, useful and honorable citizen than Amos L. Rollins. The value of such men in a community is best known and appreciated when their career has closed, and their neighbors seek, too often, alas! in vain for some one to ably fill their places in all the duties of citizenship.

ALONZO HAVINGTON SAWYER.

The Sawyer families of New England trace their lineage to Thomas Sawyer, who emigrated from Lincolnshire, England, to America in 1635 or 1636. He was about twenty-one years of age at the time of his immigration, and settled first at Rowley, Mass., but in 1647 he went with the first proprietors to settle the town of Lancaster, Mass. He was married to Mary Prescott. They had a family of eleven children, and from them are descended most, if not all, of the Sawyers of this country.

Alonzo H. Sawyer was born May 17, 1827, in Alton, N. H. He was the son of Hon. Daniel and Tamson (Walker) Sawyer, of that place. His grandfather, Enoch Sawyer, was one of the pioneers of Alton, being the second who built a house in what is now the village. Years later, as the village grew and prospered, he kept an inn and a general store, and was one of the substantial men of the town. His son, Hon. Daniel Sawyer, was one of Alton's principal townsmen.