

Copied from F. B. W. H.'s copy of original

New Smyrna, Fla.
June 30th 1878

My dear and revered Relatives,

By a letter from Sister ~~Watkins~~ Waterbury, I learn that you intend to observe the Centennial of the event when an venerated Grandfather & his family, consisting of wife and one child, removed & took possession of the dwelling in which he spent the remainder of his long & eventful life. It is with great satisfaction that I learn this & were it possible I would be one in the midst of you on that occasion.

Of "Grandfather's" home, my recollections extend back on a period of more than seventy years. Grandfather was then what he never ceased to be, until extreme age laid him aside from toil, the manly & industrious cultivator of the soil - Grandmother, the faithful, careful & constant housekeeper & nurse; - & Aunt Polly, & the rest, as they came along, the beautiful, sparkling, helpful, cheerful young women who swept the floors, punched the fire, milked the cows, prepared the table & did everything else that daughters should do to minister to the comfort of weary men as they came in from the toils of the farm.

To hundreds of young Ladies, in their course of education, since those days of pristine purity, have I said, "Young Ladies! Learn to keep house. Be practically acquainted with every part & parcel of this first of arts. Know how to do it yourselves & then you can teach your daughters, & so make your homes the scenes of industry, thrift & domestic happiness". In all that period of 70 years, while incidents occurred, some of a joyous character, & some saddened & painful - births, marriages & deaths -

festivities & fasts, yet have I never known of a single incident that was dishonorable or wrong, perpetrated or allowed in the family circle. The Bible was the rule, & Heaven was the Court by which every transaction was tried. >

Among the earliest incidents that I remember, & one that had then & has ^{yet} now a most peculiar & marked effect upon my mind, was a scene of family worship, at evening. I was between four and five years of age. I had been sent to my grandparents to make room for the next little boy that was to come to grace our dwelling. We all formed a social circle around the hearth of the west room, where the same clock that now stands there, indicated that it was "bedtime". In a moment, all stood up & turned their faces toward their chairs. It surprised me. Then came utterances from the Grand-sire, which I did not understand, but from the unusual tone, being getting a mournful impression on my mind, I thought the whole family were weeping. The scene as suddenly closed & all retired to bed. (I did not understand then, that it was a breathing forth of trust in God, - of thanks for the blessings of ~~the~~ ^{another} day, & a commitment of the household to the safe-keeping of a covenant God, for the night.) >

Among the events freshest in my memory, that have occurred in & around that ancestral dwelling, are the annual thanksgivings, that never failed to be observed. Mother, Uncle Moses, Aunt Sally, Aunt Clara & others in process of time, were married off, & had lots of little children, all of whom were gathered in one happy family, each Thanks giving, around the hearth's table of the Grandparents.

Dinner being served, always sumptuous and ample, first to the grown people, & then to the numerous community of children, the afternoon was given up to chat & hilarity. No wine, no brandy, no smoking, but all satisfied & serious, the elder members of the family would engage in a vivacious conversation, while the children, but in the orchard, or up in the chamber, would engage in lively sports & plays - as "Every man's own den", or "Blind man's buff" etc. Here, the talk ran upon the character of the season, the crops raised, the profits realized. Sometimes the scenes of the Revolution, that had, to them, so recently occurred: the administration of Washington, & the Governors of Connecticut - Edwards & Burdett, with the theology & church-order which had undergone a great change.

Nearly always would come up the genealogy of all the families - who had married & whom, - how many children & where they had settled. These were matters not put into the newspapers of those times; but they were transmitted & handed down by conversation & letters, & carefully recorded in the Bible.

The last Thanksgiving I ever spent with the grandparents was in the autumn after I had left college. The dinner-table being removed, I sat by the fire with my Grandfather, in the west room and engaged in a long conversation with him, on various subjects: but among the rest was the history of my great

Grandmother Scott, - then not far from 96 years of age - & her
descendants yet living. She gave birth to twelve children, all of
whom grew to adult years and all had children. The number
then alive, we counted up to 350: & seldom had there occurred
a death among them in the early part of life. This was a re-
markable feature of that race of people, which my Grandfather,
noticed. His own children, to the number of ten, were at that time,
all living. One - the eleventh - little Clara, had died in infancy;
& her little grave, solitary & alone, was long to be seen, just
over the fence, where now are gathered Grandsons & Mothers -
uncles & aunts - in so great numbers as seem to exceed the
living. [Honored dead! Do live your memory. You lived long &
usefully, you left an unimpaired example & have gone to
inherit the reward of "well-done".]

We, at the close of a hundred years, - so full of incident-changes
that no century of the past ever witnessed; - we are gathered here, around
the hearth-stone, & the old family mansion, where every thing awakens
memories of the past; - we have come here today to honor your
memory - to drink in afresh the spirit of the olden time, & to buckle
on the armor for a little time that still remains to us; that, like you,
we may finish our course with joy, & go to join you where neither death
nor separation ever came.

Love of you
C. G. Selleck -

bc 1727

MRS. EDWARD R. MCPHERSON JR.

STEPHEN MATHER ROAD

DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

Grandmother Scott

Hannah Bell + Rev. Dr. Moses Mather

Sarah Scott

Deac. Joseph Mather (builder)
1753 - 1840

Hannah + Chas. Selleck
1777 - 1857

Rosa
1784 - 1860

Moses Sarah Clara

Joseph Mather + Haffy O'Welan

Rev. Chas. G. (writer)
1802 -

Joseph W. + Beulah J. Walker

Stephen + Jane Roy

Beulah + Ed. Mather

Attendance at
Centennial of
Mather Homestead
July 4, 1878

visitors at
"The Old Homestead"
of the Mather family
Danien, Ct.

copied from original list

(50)

at the Centennial Celebration July 4th 1878
1778 ——— 1878

Rev. B F Bradford 7
Mrs. Farm N Darling, West Richfield, Mass. 8
Robert L. Watkins 43
Susan Watkins 44
Stephen Linskins 41
Luisa Linskins 42
David R. Bell 1
Sarah N Bell 4
George G Bell 2
D R Selleck 33
C Selleck 32
Chauncey Street 38
Ella M Street 39
E. S. Mather 23
J R Benedict 6
Frances A Selleck 36
David N. Mather 20
Ida M Mather 21
Freddie C. Mather 22
Annie E. Weed 15
Cordelia A. Mather 19
Frances E. Benedict 5
Mary E Street 40

James H. White 47
Anna White 48
Anna Bell White 49
Julia Mather 26
Julia L. Mather 27
Sarah P. Linskins 43
Harriet Bell 3
Electa M. Morgan 29
Mary A. Raymond 30
Charles R. Raymond 31
Polly Selleck 37
Rufus Hoyt 13
Harriet B. Hoyt 9
Frances D Hoyt 11
William J. Mather 24
Fannie M. Mather 25
John Hutchings 16
Jane Hutchings 15
James Weed 46
Henry B Mather 28
Mary A Hoyt 12
Addie M. Mallory 17

Fannie L. Mallory 18
Shadders Hoyt 14
Hattie N Hoyt 10
Charles Selleck 34
M. Miss Selleck 35