

CORPORATE ANNALS

OF

FALL RIVER.



SKETCHES OF MAYORS

HON. JAMES BUFFINTON, FIRST MAYOR.

HON. JAMES BUFFINTON was born on "Chaloner Hill," in Troy,—now Fall River,—Mass., March 16th, 1817. His parents removed to Swanzey, near the village of that name, in his infancy, where the first years of his childhood were passed, and where he commenced attending school; but soon the interests of the family caused their return to his native village, which henceforward became his home. His earlier years were those of self-denial and constraint, yet all through his boyhood and youth his promptness in thought and independence in action were indicative of the coming man. His parents were members of the Society of Friends, his mother being an approved minister of that body of Christians for many years. She was careful in the training of her youngest born—the subject of this sketch—to inculcate in his mind the love of truth and virtue, to lay a foundation for the principles of honesty and uprightness, and to nurture him in a strict regard for the same.

He attended public and private schools a part of each twelvemonth, until he was some fifteen years of age, when he was sent for two or three terms to the Friends' boarding-school, in Providence, R. I., where he made good use of his privileges, and progressed satisfactorily in his studies. Here, as elsewhere, the activity of an irrepressible nature often led him to the front, and in sports and exercises of muscular power and skill he ever showed an ambition to lead. After leaving school, he commenced the study of medicine with the late Dr. Thomas Wilbur, pursuing his investigations in this science successfully to the period when he should have attended medical lectures, as a finishing step to make him a veritable M.D. Failing to obtain the necessary funds at the proper time satisfactorily to himself, he turned his attention to teaching, and spent two or three years as a preceptor in public and private schools at Westport, and afterwards in Dartmouth, at or near Padanaram, the southern extremity of the town. Here, from constant association with men interested in navigation, his thoughts were turned in this direction, and he finally shipped for a whaling voyage on board the ship South Carolina, about to sail from that port.

Making a successful voyage, he returned home and engaged in business as a druggist. Subsequently, abandoning this enterprise, he entered the dry-goods and millinery trade. About this time, also, he united in marriage with Miss Sarah Perkins.

These changes in his earlier life *may* seem to some evidences of a weak and vacillating mind, while in fact they were only caused by those circumstances which affect most young men dependent upon their own exertions.

During these years he possessed the full confidence of his fellow-townsmen, who often, by their suffrages, acknowledged his qualifications, electing him to positions of trust and usefulness. He was a prominent and efficient member of the Fire Department, and in 1851 was chosen selectman, being re-elected in 1852, and again in 1853.

On the adoption of a city charter, in 1854, he was elected mayor by a majority over all of 331, in an aggregate of 1261 votes. This was the year when the city was visited by Asiatic

cholera, which raged as an epidemic, causing much distress and grief to many of our poorer families and to some of those in higher life. In this emergency he was often called upon for assistance, and in his official capacity met all calls wisely and well, promptly rendering services personally which others would not give for humanity's sake or for adequate reward. He visited the ill and destitute, and ministered to their immediate necessities with his own hands, removed the sick and dying to the hospital provided by the city for their comfort and care, and in several instances prepared the dead for decent burial. His course in these fearful weeks of suffering made him many firm personal friends, who never forgot his self-sacrifice and devotion when others, panic-stricken by the scourge, forsook and neglected them.

At the second city election, in 1855, he was re-elected mayor; but the same autumn, his executive abilities having become more generally known and appreciated, at a convention called to nominate a candidate for Representative in Congress, he was chosen by acclamation, and subsequently elected by a majority of several thousand. Thus was opened to him a wider field for those qualities of mind and heart which nature and culture had given him, and which secured for him a re-election again and again. He was in many respects a model Representative, faithful to duty, watchful over the interests of his own constituents, and eminently loyal to his country. His votes were invariably cast for the right, his voice outspoken for liberty, and his influence always in the interest of the welfare and prosperity of the nation at large. He was a consistent and persistent friend of the slave, losing no opportunity to swell the constantly increasing demand for universal freedom. When the rebellion was being inaugurated, his attention in the House was, if possible, increased, and no effort was lost to advance the nation's cause and preserve her life and usefulness. On his return home, early in the spring of 1861, he immediately set influences at work to raise a company of volunteers in person, joining the "boys in blue" in their drill, their marches through the street, and in all their preparations to become defenders of their country's life and integrity.

In 1864 Mr. Buffinton having declined a re-nomination for Congress, accepted an office in the Internal Revenue Department, tendered him by the United States Government during President Johnson's administration.

The duties of this office—General Treasury Agent—were satisfactorily performed for a year or two, when he was appointed Revenue Collector for the First District of Massachusetts, which office he held until after the death of Mr. Eliot, his successor in Congress, in June, 1870, when he was again elected, by those whom he had so faithfully served in previous years, as their representative in the national councils. He served two terms, and was re-elected for a third, when death intervened. Thus was spent the remainder of his useful life, the last few weeks in distress of body, yet to the last with the same alert mind, anxious to do his whole duty, prompt in his attendance upon each session of the House, and finally dying with the harness on. He remained in his seat, against the wishes of his friends, until the adjournment of Congress, when he came home to die in less than one hour after being welcomed by his beloved domestic circle, Sabbath morning, March 6th, 1874.

The news of his arrival home, and the sad and startling intelligence of his death, were rapidly spread from lip to ear throughout the city, and many of his devoted friends, political and others, hastened to offer their condolence and sympathy to his bereaved family.

His funeral obsequies were attended by a large concourse of relatives and friends, residents of this and many other towns in the State. Remarks were made by a number of the clergy of the city eulogistic of his manly and honorable course in life, and regretful, yet submissive to the decrees of divine Providence, for his comparatively sudden and unexpected removal from the scenes of earthly labor.

The procession bearing his body to its last resting-place, in Oak Grove Cemetery, passed through weeping hosts of his less-honored fellow-citizens, who remembered his care over and provision for them in their time of dire suffering and trial, and thus manifested their respect and regard for one who had proved himself unquestionably their friend in all the public positions of honor and of influence where, by their suffrages, they had delighted to assist in placing him.

HON. EDWARD P. BUFFINTON, SECOND MAYOR.

Under a government like ours, where arbitrary and conventional distinctions are unknown, and blood has but little or nothing to do with the advancement of men to positions of responsible trusts, and where all the avenues to preferment are open to honorable competition, it is in no wise surprising that so many from the humbler walks of life attain to places of coveted exaltation. Indeed the surprise would be greater were this not the case, for it is patent that, in human affairs, the great majority of persons of this class have come from humble life; and it is this fact that gives greatest lustre to the spirit and genius of our institutions. With these few words do we preface the brief biographical sketch of one who in life endeared himself to all who knew him.

Edward Purington Buffinton, son of Aaron and Rebecca Buffinton, was born in Westport, Mass., November 16th, 1814. His parents coming to Fall River when he was but a lad, he was almost to the "manor born," and grew up personally interested in all that related to the prosperity of the growing town. Early in life he became satisfied that man was born to labor, and, acting upon the good sense and sound and comprehensive logic conveyed in the lines

" He who by the plough would thrive,
Must either hold, himself, or drive,"

applied himself diligently to business, proudly conscious that working for daily bread was as honorable as it was necessary to the development of manly youth and robust, healthy manhood. As a consequence, he was hardly in his teens before he was known as a hard-working, money-saving boy. His school advantages were quite limited; but, like many other boys similarly situated, he tried to make up, as far as he could, his lack of school-hours, by devoting all his spare minutes to the acquisition of such knowledge as could be made practically available in after-life. His motto was, "Whatever I undertake to do, I will do it the best I know how;" and his steady, undeviating fidelity to this line of action went very far towards making him the man he was. He was a great reader of the lighter kind of literature, and loved so well to read aloud that he would sit by the winter fireside at home and read for hours, to the comfort of his mother and the edification of the family. His reading, if it did not strengthen and sharpen his habits of thinking, at least gave him a good insight into the workings of the human organization, and developed, to their richest blossoming, those gentler attributes of our natures—love, kindness, affection—which constitute the charm of social intercourse, sweeten home-life, and make it so full of enjoyment.

Mr. Buffinton engaged in business for himself early in life as a market-man, following the occupation of his father. His market was on the corner of Main and Pocasset streets, until the erection of the town-hall and market-building in 1846, when he removed thither, and continued in the same pursuit until the close of his life, being one of the leading merchants in that department. Mr. Buffinton was "as honest as the days are long," regarding sham and pretence with a hatred as strong as was his love and respect for clean, downright, every-day honesty in everything and everywhere. Living and acting upon the grand old proverb that "worth makes the man," and realizing, in its fullest conception, the fact that every honest calling is honorable—be it preaching, pleading, or marketing,—he strove to dignify his business to the honorable rank of a profession by honoring it himself.

It is not surprising that one growing up with the growth of the town, interested in all that appertained to its prosperity, and actively participating in most of its earlier organizations, should become popular with all classes, secure the good-will of the people, and be complimented with honorable expressions of it. In 1852 Mr. Buffinton was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where he showed the same fidelity to his convictions that characterized him in all the business relations of life. Continuing to enjoy the confidence of the people, in 1854, when Fall River changed its form of government and became a city, he

was honored with an election to the Board of Aldermen, and in November, 1855, was chosen by the city government to the mayoralty, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Hon. James Buffinton, who had been elected to the national House of Representatives. The following year, 1856, he was elected to the same office by the people. The three succeeding years he devoted to his business and private affairs, during which he was free from the cares and responsibilities of official life, and happy in the change. In 1860, however, he was again elected to the mayoralty, and held the office for seven consecutive years—a period during which our country went through the most trying ordeal in its history.

From the inauguration of the rebellion to its close, Mr. Buffinton was at the head of the city government, and had an experience from which a man of weaker nerve and baser metal would have shrunk discouraged. But he bore up under the pressure laid upon him with a fortitude and firmness that astonished even his most ardent admirers. His labors were almost incessant day and night, in season and out of season, but he never for a moment faltered in the discharge of his duties, and his entire administration was distinguished for judiciousness, care, economy, and humanity. A patriot to the core, he did every thing that one in his position could do to help put down the rebellion and preserve our liberties. He stood the strain upon his patience with a moderation and resoluteness that reflect honor both upon his character as a magistrate and as a man, and, while doing all in his power toward the furtherance of the cause and struggle for freedom, was carefully considerate of those who went from our midst to fight its battles and win its victories, and humanely thoughtful of those they had left behind. With an eye to the economical administration of city affairs, he was uniformly careful in his dealings with those who thronged his office for aid, and if he ever erred in judgment, it was always on the side of humanity. Though a large man, his heart was the largest part of him, and the record of his administration during the years of our civil strife is one of noble heart-service. His love of approbation corresponded with his kindness of heart, and nothing grieved him more than to find that his best-directed efforts in any line of action failed to be properly appreciated. He was sensitive, as is every true man, to the touch even of ingratitude, and nothing wounded him deeper than the indifference of those to whom, some time in life, he had shown generous and timely favors. His sense of justice was remarkably keen, and rarely, if ever, was he at fault in judgment. His readiness to assist others became proverbial, and his generous nature often led him to do for his friends that which ended in serious pecuniary losses to himself. At home he was a devoted husband and a kind, indulgent father.

Not a great man, as the world estimates greatness, he was one who gained the highest respect of his fellow-citizens, and held it to the last.

His death occurred on the morning of October 2d, 1871, and with his burial was laid to rest all that was mortal of one whose life and service must, in the years to come, hold an important place, and constitute one of the brightest chapters in the history of our city.

HON. NATHANIEL B. BORDEN, THIRD MAYOR.

Hon. Nathaniel B. Borden was born April 15th, 1801, and died April 10th, 1865. His birth-place was in a house which stood formerly on the south side of Pocasset Street, a short distance from Main Street. This house had a local celebrity from the fact that two British soldiers were shot and killed at its eastern doorway when the British made their attack upon the village during the Revolutionary War.

To a common country-school tuition he added a few months' attendance at the Plainfield Academy, Connecticut, but having soon abandoned the idea of acquiring a liberal education, he returned home, and, though scarcely twenty years of age, was elected clerk and treasurer of the Pocasset Company, then but just formed. He held this position till 1837, when he resigned on account of the press of public duties. He was a member of the Massachusetts Legislature in 1831, 1834, 1851, and 1864. He was a Representative in the Congress of the United States from

1837 to 1840 inclusive, and again in 1843-44. To his duties as a legislator he brought extensive practical knowledge, a cool, deliberative judgment, and a firm purpose to do what he believed to be right in itself, regardless of personal or party consequences, ever placing his convictions of public duty above real or supposed personal interests.

At the time of the agitation of Free Masonry and anti-Masonry he took decided grounds against secret institutions in a free country, and, it is said, opened his own house for anti-Masonic meetings when no other place could be obtained for the purpose.

He was among the early and prominent friends of the slave, and assisted many a fugitive, either directly or indirectly, on his road to freedom. At a time when it was fashionable to mob Abolitionists he opened the Washington School-House, then his private property, in which to form an anti-slavery society.

He was for many years in local public life as town clerk, selectman, highway surveyor, and a sort of general guardian to look after the interests and welfare of the community, thereby contributing largely towards securing the good order, credit, and prosperity of the town and city. He believed it to be a duty for every citizen to serve his country when called upon to occupy any official position for which he was qualified. Under the municipal organization he was an alderman for several years, holding that position at his death. In 1856 he was chosen mayor, and during the trying times of the winter of 1856-7, while the mills were stopped and hundreds were out of employment and destitute, he employed many of the idle laborers having no legal residence here, at a low rate, in necessary work about the city. He believed it to be a just and wise as well as a humane policy to provide for their wants temporarily, and secure to the city, at the same time, the benefits of their cheap labor. They were thus retained, at comparatively little additional expense to the city, where their useful services would again soon be required, and the objectionable course avoided of throwing them as a burden upon the State, with all the family disorder and social degradation consequent thereupon.

At various times he held the position of president of the Fall River Savings Bank, the Fall River Union Bank, and Fall River Railroad Company, performing the duties devolving upon him with efficiency and zeal.

He possessed naturally a happy, cheerful disposition, was a pleasant companion, and often manifested a versatile talent and great powers of endurance. With a moral integrity unimpeached and unimpeachable, a large heart, and generous sympathies, he passed through life shedding light upon and assisting, by kindly acts, his fellow-man wherever found, without regard to the color of his skin, the place of his birth, or the nature of his creed. Liberal in his religious faith and upright in his daily walk, he was to oppression an enemy, to the oppressed a friend. By his death the city lost a faithful public servant, and the poor their best benefactor.

HON. JOSIAH C. BLAISDELL, FOURTH MAYOR.

Hon. Josiah C. Blaisdell was born in Campton, New Hampshire, on the 22d of October, 1820. In his boyhood he attended the common district school, and later was a member of the Literary and Scientific Institution at Hancock, N. H. While yet a young man, he removed with his parents to Methuen, Mass., from whence, in 1843, he came to Fall River for the purpose of entering the law office of James Ford, Esq. Upon the completion of his studies, he engaged in the practice of his profession, and has continued its active duties to the present day, rising step by step, until he has gained a foremost position at the bar of his adopted town, and has become generally well known in this section of the State.

His first entrance into public life was in 1858, when he was elected a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. In 1864 he was appointed, by Governor John A. Andrew, a member of the Board of State Charities, completing an unexpired term of two years. In 1866 he was reappointed to the same office, by Governor Alexander H. Bullock, for a further term of seven years, but resigned after serving two years. He was chosen a member of the State Senate in 1865, and again of the House in 1866.

In 1858, by the suffrages of his fellow-citizens, he was nominated and elected mayor of the city, and in 1859 was complimented with a re-election to the same prominent and responsible office. His administration of public affairs was marked by a rigid attention to economy, and, if distinguished in no other respect, was, at least, peculiar in this, that it lived *within* its income. The years of his mayoralty coming just after the crisis and business depression of 1856-7, it was the demand and expectation of the citizens that the government should be conducted judiciously, faithfully, and economically; that no new enterprises should be entered upon unless imperatively demanded; that "acts and deeds of retrenchment" should be the watchword throughout the year; and in accordance with this well-known and positive expression of the people's wishes municipal affairs were administered.

Realizing that the head of the government exerted no inconsiderable influence upon his associates in office, Mr. Blaisdell clearly defined the scope of work demanded by the times, and, by careful and judicious suggestions, provided for such action only as would promote the interest and prosperity of the city. The two years of his administration were distinguished, therefore, by the preservation and continuance of existing public affairs rather than the inauguration of new and untried enterprises. Attention was chiefly devoted to the ordinary departments of municipal life; "to the public schools, those guide-boards to growth and intelligence; to the police, the conservators of peace and good order; to the fire department, that the means and facilities for extinguishing fires might be always ready; and especially to finances, that excessive taxation might not retard the growth of the city, nor parsimony belittle her position." Thus husbanding her resources, the city was placed in a position to enter upon that career of enterprise and expansion which has characterized her progress since the opening of the year 1860.

Since Mr. Blaisdell's terms in the mayoralty and as Representative and Senator, he has been brought by official life more or less continuously before the public, and in 1874, upon the organization of the "Second District Court of Bristol," in recognition of his qualifications as a lawyer and a man of sound and discreet judgment, he was appointed presiding judge. He has since that date filled the position ably and well, to the satisfaction of his brethren of the bar and the public at large.

HON. GEORGE O. FAIRBANKS, FIFTH MAYOR.

George Otis Fairbanks, the oldest child—and only son—of a family of nine children, was born in Medway, Norfolk County, Mass., February 14th, 1815.

His parents lived upon a farm, and during the first ten years of his life he passed the time, as was customary in those days for farmers' sons, in light work about the homestead and in attending school, receiving all the advantages and privileges both of public and private tuition within convenient distance of his home. He left the public school when thirteen years old, but spent some portion of the following four years at a private school, or in study at the Medway Classical Institution.

Being then seventeen, he commenced teaching, and four of the next five years were spent—the autumn and winter months—at this employment in the neighboring towns of Upton and Canton. During these four years—the fifth being one of confinement by sickness—when not teaching or studying, he worked on his father's farm, or was engaged as clerk or assistant in manufacturing establishments within the limits of his native town. At the expiration of this period he commenced teaching as a permanent employment, and for some eight or nine years was thus engaged in the town of Dedham and in the city of Lowell, where he became a popular instructor, and won the esteem and confidence of the community.

Leaving Lowell, he went to the town of Newburyport, where he continued teaching two years more, and then, making one of those changes so common and characteristic of young men in New England communities, set about learning a trade. He commenced studying and

practising to fit himself for the dental profession, and, after spending several months in preparation, chose Fall River as the place for his permanent location. He removed thither in December, 1845, and was for many years the leading member of his profession.

Doctor Fairbanks, on becoming a resident of the town, soon manifested a laudable interest in public affairs. This interest was recognized by his fellow-citizens, who elected him one of the General School Committee, three years after his entrance into the community, complimenting him with a re-election in 1849 and 1850.

In 1852 and '53 he was chosen a member of the Board of Selectmen; in 1861, elected to the Common Council, and, upon the organization of the board, chosen its president. In 1866 he was elected one of the General School Committee for the term of three years, and made chairman of the board, on its organization for business. In December, 1867, he was elected mayor of Fall River, and the following year re-elected to the same honorable and responsible office.

At the annual State election in 1869, Dr. Fairbanks was the choice of the city as one of its representatives in General Court, and, from the first, was an efficient and influential member of that body. He was re-elected to this office in 1870, '71, '72 and '73, and again in 1875.

At the second session of the Legislature, of which he was a member, he was appointed on the Committee on Railroads, and continued one of its number during his entire membership of the House, the last two years being second only on the list. His labors were arduous, but his efforts untiring, and fully appreciated by his associates on the committee. As he has risen step by step in usefulness and in influence in the community, so has his faithfulness to duty, and his promptness in its discharge, in each of these public positions won for him many warm friends among his fellow-citizens and in the State at large.

As a chief magistrate, his strong desire was to see the city give large attention to and take high rank in whatever would bring prosperity and happiness to the mass of the people. It was the aim of his successive administrations to look well after the more common and everyday wants of the people; to consider not only the important and more prominent features of city care and expenditure, as highways, police and fire departments, schools, the poor, etc., but to have in mind the moral and physical well-being of the citizens, their health, the sources of amusement, entertainment, and culture.

It was to this administration, and more particularly to his own personal interest and influence in the matter, that Fall River is indebted for the public parks in her northern and southern sections; for the magnificent roadway over the hills to the north, Highland Avenue; for the broadening and grading of Pocasset Street, that main thoroughfare from the shore to Main Street; for the first of the large and substantial as well as ornamental public buildings, the Morgan Street school-house; and—more than all, holding in view the greatest immediate benefit to the greatest number—that daily recurring blessing to the laboring poor of the community, the free public baths, the first of which was established as an experiment, after repeated and persistent efforts on the part of Mayor Fairbanks.

HON. SAMUEL M. BROWN, SIXTH MAYOR.

Hon. Samuel M. Brown is a native of Swanzy, in this State, and was born on the third day of February, 1825. The house in which he was born is still standing, a short distance directly north of Cole's Station, on the Fall River, Warren and Providence Division of the Old Colony Railroad, and is the same in which his paternal ancestors for three successive generations have lived and died. Here he spent his early years, enjoying the ordinary advantages and performing the various duties incident to farm-life.

In February, 1842, being then seventeen years of age, he came to Fall River, and obtained employment in the store of Caleb B. Snow, who was at that time engaged in the grocery business on Annawan Street.

In 1846, being out of health, he returned to Swanzy, where he remained until the early

part of the following year, when he again came to Fall River, which has since been his residence. During these years he was engaged as clerk in the wholesale grocery business most of the time. In January, 1869, by the suffrages of his fellow-citizens, he was chosen to the important and responsible position of mayor, and so satisfactory was his administration of public affairs that once and again was he re-elected, serving four terms in all.

Since 1869, his time has been principally occupied with the duties of the public offices to which he has been called. He was elected to the Common Council in the fall of 1857, and held that office the three succeeding years, as also during the year 1864. He has served one year as clerk of the council, fourteen years as trustee of the Public Library, two years on the General School Committee, two years and an unexpired part of a third as treasurer and collector, and two years as assessor,

His administration as mayor fell within those years shortly following the war of the rebellion, noted as a period of unexampled business activity throughout the country. Fall River shared largely in the prevailing prosperity. The manufacturing business of the city was greatly increased, there was an addition of more than fifty per cent to the population, and the valuation of the city was more than doubled within those four years. A corresponding extension of the public works of the city was called for, and accordingly much was done within that period by the city government in the way of public improvements.

Several school buildings were erected, one engine-house was built, and the Fire Alarm Telegraph was established. Extensive improvements were also made in the streets and sewerage of the city. The water-works and the changes in the City Hall building were projected and work upon them considerably advanced within Mr. Brown's administration, but neither was completed until the following year. Many of the improvements named were recommended by the mayor, and nearly all received his approval.

The frequent elections of Mr. Brown to responsible positions, since his entrance upon public life, mark the high appreciation of the citizens of his integrity and worth, all his acts as a public officer having merited and received the cordial approbation of his constituents.

HON. ROBERT T. DAVIS, SEVENTH MAYOR.

Robert T. Davis, M.D., was born in County Down, North of Ireland, of parents and ancestry Presbyterian on the paternal, and Quaker, or Friend, on the maternal side, August 28th, 1823.

He came to America when three years old, his father having made a previous sojourn in this country, during which two daughters were born. His father, who was a linen manufacturer, went back to his native land in the interests of his business, but, returning soon to America, settled at Amesbury, Essex County, where the earlier years of our present subject were spent. Dr. Davis' academic education was received at the Friends' boarding-school, in Providence, R. I., and at the Amesbury Academy. He came to Fall River in his youth, and studied for the medical profession with Dr. Thomas Wilbur, on South Main Street, living in his family, and subsequently uniting himself more intimately with them by marriage with the eldest daughter. She died not long after, and some years later he was again united in marriage with a lady of Westchester County, New York, she also being a Friend. Dr. Davis pursued his professional studies for a period at the Tremont Street Medical School, Boston, but graduated from the Harvard Medical School, in 1847. He was Dispensary Physician a short time in Boston, going thence to Waterville, Me., where he spent three years, when he again returned to Fall River, and commenced practice as a physician and surgeon in 1850. With the exception of four years spent in New York City, Fall River has continued to be his place of residence and business. The doctor, soon after his permanent settlement in the city, became an active and prominent member of the Bristol County South Medical Society, and was elected president—at the time, probably the youngest man ever chosen to that position. For several years he likewise held the office of councillor in the association.

His more public life commenced about 1851. In that year a town meeting was holden in Town Hall, to see if the town would instruct its representatives in General Court to cast their votes for Hon. Charles Sumner as Senator in Congress, there being a prolonged contest in that body to fill this office. At this meeting Dr. Davis addressed his fellow-citizens in favor of thus instructing their public servants, and most eloquently and forcibly urged the importance of Massachusetts being represented in the Senate by men true and faithful to the interests of freedom.

In 1853 he was chosen a member of the State Constitutional Convention, and in 1859 and 1861 a State Senator. He was appointed, in his first term, chairman of the Committee on State Charitable Institutions, and was also a member of the Committee for the Revision of the Statutes, the latter committee sitting between the two sessions of the Legislature.

Dr. Davis soon proved himself to be a fluent, convincing, and pleasant public speaker, during his first term as Senator delivering a speech, which was published, in favor of the erection of the statue in honor of our commonwealth's great advocate of popular education, Hon. Horace Mann.

At a public meeting in Boston, on the day of the execution, in Virginia, of John Brown, he spoke in earnest condemnation of the spirit of the slave power, and predicted that this act would prove a fatal blow to the "peculiar institution."

In 1861, in the Senate, he was made chairman of the Committee on Education, also chairman of the Special Committee on the Abolition of Capital Punishment, whose report was written by him; the bill presented for this object, while adopted by the Senate, being lost in the lower House.

In relation to the change of boundary line dividing Massachusetts and Rhode Island, in 1861, a matter which caused great interest and much excitement in the community, he was very active and efficient in securing the line finally adopted and ratified by the Legislature of each State.

He was a member of the National Republican Convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln for President, in 1860, and also a member of that which nominated Gen. Rutherford B. Hayes as a candidate for the same office, in 1876.

He was appointed by Gov. John A. Andrew a member of the State Board of Charities, and is now, and has been since its organization, a member of the State Board of Health.

In 1873 Dr. Davis was elected mayor of Fall River, holding this position one year (but declining a re-election). On retiring from the mayoralty, he donated his entire net salary to the "Children's Home," a charitable institution of the city. In his inaugural, he recommended improvements involving large expenditures of money, but which seemed necessary in the changing circumstances of the city. These recommendations were mostly adopted and finally consummated by the city. His administration was one of unusual activity in all departments, great enterprises being made or projected during that year, and more labor performed than in the same period before or since. Some of these improvements were the erection of three spacious school-houses, three engine-houses and police-stations, the widening of Pleasant Street, from Sixth Street to the "Narrows" (a very important measure), the laying out and completing of other streets, etc. A plan of sewerage for the city was recommended and adopted by this government, and the "Betterment Law" was first put in operation. The City Hall was also completed in its remodelled form, and dedicated that year.

Dr. Davis is an earnest, public-spirited man, of good judgment, quick in perception, generally correct in his conclusions, prompt in his efforts to advance measures which he believes will prove for the good and welfare of the community at large, and broad in his views of the necessities of the hour.

The constant friend and advocate of general education, he was elected a member of the General School Committee first in 1851, and has always given his voice and his vote for the best interests of the scholars of our public schools. It was during his administration as mayor that the city government adopted the provisions of State law whereby all school text-books are furnished the scholars of the public schools free of expense to themselves—a plan which

has worked well and satisfactorily to the entire community since its adoption. He is a gentleman of large mental culture and benevolent disposition, possessing a kind and sympathetic heart. Having made good use of the opportunities given him of self-improvement, he has wrought his own way in the world, and been successful in his professional practice as in other respects. Early in the revival of interest in manufacturing pursuits in the city, he became much interested, and manifested his confidence therein by making large investments in this kind of property as well as in real estate. He was elected president of one corporation and director in several others, and thus, in various ways, has come to be one of our best and most useful public men—one whom his fellow-men have delighted to honor, and one who has never disappointed their hopes or betrayed their trust and confidence.

HON. JAMES F. DAVENPORT, EIGHTH MAYOR.

The Hon. James F. Davenport was born at Belleville, New Jersey, March 4th, 1832. His father, a calico printer, died when he was but eighteen months old, leaving a widow with five young children. The family moved to Taunton, Mass., in 1839, and to Fall River in 1841. Mr. Davenport had but meagre educational advantages, attending the public schools in Fall River from 1841 to 1848, and then going to New Jersey to learn the trade of an engraver. He had a natural talent for mechanics, and, as a boy, found his happiest moments when at work upon or about machinery. In the process of learning the engraver's art, he worked in the print-works at Belleville and Paterson, N. J., and at Providence, R. I., but returned again to Fall River in 1853, where for the next twenty years he was employed in the American Print Works, filling, during the later years of this period, the position of superintendent of the engraving department. From this responsible private service he was called by his fellow-citizens in 1874 to become mayor of the city of Fall River. For the few years previous to this date, his close attention to the duties of his business had greatly impaired his health, and left him but a modicum of his wonted strength and vigor, entailing a physical weakness with which he has had to contend through most of the successive terms of his mayoralty.

Mr. Davenport at an early period manifested an active interest in public matters, always aiming to keep himself thoroughly informed on the questions of the day. His first official life was as a member of the Common Council of Fall River in 1862. In 1871, he was again elected a member of the council, and upon its organization was chosen president, but held the position only a few months, when he was transferred to the Board of Aldermen, to fill a vacancy occurring in his ward. He was re-elected an alderman in 1872 and 1873, and in 1874 received the Republican nomination for the office of mayor. To this honorable and responsible position he was elected by a large majority, and, by the action of his fellow-citizens, was continued in the same office during the years 1875, 1876, and 1877.

Mr. Davenport's administration as mayor developed executive talent of a high order. His term of service covers a period of four years, full of active labor, and calls for prompt, discreet, and decisive action. During these years he has ever striven to act up to the sentiments expressed in his first inaugural address, viz., "As public servants, let us openly and earnestly endeavor to perform honestly the duties incumbent upon us, deciding every measure that may be brought before us for our consideration upon its true merits, with no disposition to evade responsibility or ignore any reasonable demand made upon us by our fellow-citizens." His term of office coming just at the close of an unexampled period of prosperity and growth, when, within six or seven years, a population was added equal in number to that which it had taken more than half a century to reach, involved many great and necessary improvements and public works, and a correspondingly large expenditure of money. Many of these were authorized by previous governments, but the execution of them was left to Mr. Davenport's administration, and in providing the necessary funds and carrying out these important measures,

fraught with the future well-being of the community for many years to come, the highest executive ability and most careful and considerate judgment were called into constant requisition. Thus, for example, a comprehensive system of sewerage having been adopted, upon an elaborate and scientific plan, suited to the wants of an expanding community, most of its main trunks and many of its connecting branches were constructed during the years 1873-77, involving an expense of over \$250,000. Closely connected with sewerage was the system of public water-works, costing nearly or quite a million and a half of dollars, the means for which, realized by the sale of bonds, were mainly negotiated for and funded under the special supervision of Mr. Davenport, as chairman of the Committee on Finance. The widening of South Main Street, from the Park to the Rhode Island line, something like a mile and a quarter; of Pleasant Street, from Sixth Street to the Narrows, perhaps a mile and a half; of North Main Street, from the Narragansett Mills to Steep Brook, about a mile; the erection of the Davis, Slade, and Davenport school-houses, and three engine-houses and police-stations, all authorized or begun by previous administrations and necessitating an outlay of over \$400,000, were consummated within these years (1873-77). The City Hospital was also built, the Park graded and improved, and many other measures of public utility accomplished, an expenditure demanded by the urgent and imperative wants of a community which, within a few years, had increased twofold in wealth, population, and business, and had more than doubled the area over which its interests were spread.

To be at the head of a government supervising these vast interests has been no mere child's play, but has called for the highest wisdom and discretion of the chief executive, and in devoting his whole time and attention to the duties of his office, Mr. Davenport has fairly earned for himself the commendation and confidence of his fellow-citizens. Through his instrumentality the floating debt of the city, amounting to more than a million of dollars, was successfully funded at a long term of years and a low rate of interest, and the credit of the city so established that temporary loans to large amounts are easily secured, while the bonds of the city have passed into the hands of capitalists for permanent investments, the few that come upon the market being quickly disposed of at a good premium. Notwithstanding these very large expenditures, the government the past two years has been so economically administered, that it has lived within the appropriations, though smaller than usual, and the debt of the city has also been decreased.

The rapid expansion of the city involved many changes in the subordinate departments of municipal administration. The police force was reorganized, and its numbers increased, upon the completion and occupancy of the new police stations in the northern, southern, and eastern sections of the city. The *morale* of the force was brought to a higher standard, and greater efficiency secured in the discharge of their various and important, often delicate, duties. The introduction of water and the establishment of a large number of hydrants gave a new phase to the administration of the fire department, which led to its reorganization and distribution, and resulted in a more completely equipped department, and an improved *personnel* of the force. The appointment of the members of both of these forces devolves upon the mayor and aldermen, and in filling these positions Mayor Davenport has ever sought to increase the dignity and efficiency of each department, and to eliminate all elements that might impede the discipline, energy, and cohesion of either body of men.

Another outgrowth of the rapid extension of the city in all directions, and the consequent changes involved in the laying out of highways, and improving the facilities of communication between different sections, was the question of benefit and damage to abutters, the settlement of claims for land taken, the rights of owners, and the thousand and one questions which arise where municipal and private rights are involved. Time is always required to bring these various questions to a point, and it was the lot of Mr. Davenport's administration to receive from its predecessors a legacy of lawsuits and questions of land damages, the settlement of which he found at an early date to be one of the most perplexing of his duties. Happily constituted by nature, with a kind, conciliatory spirit, calm and undisturbed amid trying difficulties, and peculiarly apt and winning in his contact with men, Mr. Davenport was especially fitted to deal

with all these cases, successfully adjusting most of the points in controversy without resort to the courts, and, in cases where litigation had already been begun, securing results far more favorable than the city could secure by negotiations with the opposing party. No small part of the time of the mayor has been required to examine the legal questions which have arisen, and, in the process of this schooling, Mayor Davenport has developed an exceptional aptitude for the comprehension and management of the intricate and perplexing problems of civic administration.

Mr. Davenport, upon his first election to the mayoralty, determined to devote his whole time to the duties of his office, and has continued to do so through the successive years of his administration. His services, as a result, have been eminently successful, and no mayor ever had the confidence of the community to a higher degree. Conservative and prudent in maturing measures, yet prompt and vigorous in action when occasion demands, Mr. Davenport has qualities that especially fit him for public life. In the several years of his mayoralty, during which the laboring population have become restless, and been prompted to covert, if not open, violence by irresponsible leaders, when the least symptom of wavering or uncertainty on the part of those in authority might have precipitated riot and bloodshed, the firmness and courage of the chief executive were put to the severest test, and so satisfactorily did Mr. Davenport meet the crisis, that his praises have been sounded on every side. Unassuming in demeanor, and slight in physical proportions, he nevertheless has shown that he possesses an unflinching spirit, equal to all emergencies. Most affable and amiable of men, he has always made hosts of friends among those with whom he has been brought in contact.

ACT OF INCORPORATION
OF THE
TOWN OF FALL RIVER,

BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

1803.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three, AN ACT to divide the town of Freetown, and to incorporate the southerly part thereof into a separate town by the name of Fall River.

BE it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the southerly part of Freetown, in the County of Bristol, as described within the following bounds, with the inhabitants thereon, be, and they are hereby incorporated into a separate town by the name of Fall River, viz.:

Beginning in Taunton Great River so called, and thence running south seventy degrees, east on the lines dividing the lands belonging to the heirs of Samuel Valentine, from the lands of the heirs of William Valentine, and so continuing the same course about eight hundred and sixty rods, till it intersects a line running from the town of Dartmouth, north twelve degrees east, by the easterly of the twentieth great lot owned by Thomas Borden and Richard Borden, thence on the line last mentioned to Dartmouth line. Thence by the lines of the town of Dartmouth and Westport to the State of Rhode Island, thence on the line of said State into said river, thence by the channel of said river to the bounds first mentioned. And the said town of Fall River is hereby vested with all the powers and privileges, rights and immunities, to which other towns are entitled by the constitution and laws of this commonwealth.

SECTION II. Be it further enacted, that the said town of Fall River shall pay all the arrears of taxes, which have been assessed upon them, together with their proportion of all debts owed by said town of Freetown prior to the date of this Act, and that all questions relative to property already existing, shall be adjusted and settled in the same manner as if this Act had not been made; and that all property rights and credits of said town of Freetown be received and enjoyed by the said town of Fall River, according to their proportion of the taxes of said Freetown, as assessed in the last tax-bills.

SECTION III. Be it further enacted, that the said town of Fall River shall take upon themselves, and support one half of all the poor now actually chargeable to said town of Freetown, and shall also bear, and pay one half of the expense of supporting such poor persons as may be sent back upon said town of Freetown from other towns, who removed from said town of Freetown prior to the passing this Act.

SECTION IV. Be it further enacted, that of all State and County taxes which shall be levied and required of said towns previous to a new valuation, the said town of Fall River shall pay four tenths.

SECTION V. And be it further enacted, that Charles Durfee, Esq., be and he is hereby authorized to issue his warrant, directed to some suitable inhabitant of the said town of Fall River, requiring him to notify and warn the inhabitants of the said town qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at such time and place as shall be expressed in the said warrant, to choose all such officers as other towns within this commonwealth are required by law to choose, in the months of March or April annually, and the officers so chosen shall be qualified as other town officers are.

CHANGES OF CORPORATE NAME.

In the House of Representatives, February 24, 1803. This bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

JOHN C. JONES, *Speaker*.

In Senate, February 25, 1803. This bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

DAVID COBB, *President*.

February 26, 1803. By the Governor approved.

CALEB STRONG.

True copy attest.

JOHN AVERY, *Secretary*.

A true copy attest.

WALTER CHALONER, *Town Clerk*, for 1803.

CHANGE OF NAME.—“FALL RIVER” TO “TROY.”

In a warrant for the assembling of the legal voters of the town of Fall River, dated March 21st, 1804, a portion of article 5th reads—“Also to know the minds of the town respecting altering the name of the town, and if altered, by what name they would wish it called.” At a meeting held May 8th, 1804, it was voted “that the present town of Fall River shall be called Troy.” Tradition reports that this action was induced by a prominent citizen who had recently visited Troy, New York, and who became so enamored of its name, that, upon his return he induced his fellow-townsmen to give up the suggestive and appropriate name received from the red man, and assume that derived from the ancient and mythical Homeric city.

1804.

AN ACT to change the name of the town of Fall River, in the County of Bristol.

Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Act, the name of the said town of Fall River shall cease, and the said town shall hereafter be called and known by the name of Troy, any law to the contrary notwithstanding. And nothing in this act contained shall be construed to impair any rights of the said corporation; but the inhabitants of said town shall have, enjoy, and exercise all the powers, privileges and immunities as a corporation by the name of Troy, in as full and ample a manner as though the name of the said town had not been changed.

This Act passed June 18, 1804.

“TROY” TO “FALL RIVER.”

At a town meeting assembled March 18, 1833, it was voted “That it is expedient to have the name of the town of Troy altered to that of Fall River,” and “that the selectmen be directed to petition the Legislature now in session, for an act to alter the name of the town of Troy to that of Fall River.”

1834.

AN ACT to change the name of Troy to Fall River.

Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the passage of this Act, the name of the town of Troy, in the County of Bristol, shall cease, and the said town shall hereafter be called and known by the name of Fall River, and by this name shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges, and subject to all the duties and obligations to which it would have been entitled and subject if the name had not been changed as aforesaid. February 12, 1834.

TOWN CLERKS OF THE TOWN OF FALL RIVER, 1803-1854.

1803,	WALTER CHALONER,	1 year.
1804 to 1813 inclusive,	BENJAMIN BRIGHTMAN,	10 years.
1814 to 1815 "	WM. B. CANEDY,	2 "
1816 from March to Nov. 2,	NATHANIEL LUTHER, when at a town meeting was made	
the following record: "Nathaniel Luther, the Town Clerk, being absent, made choice of Joseph		
E. Read to act as Town Clerk the remainder of the year (at all town meetings and all other		
business pertaining to the Town Clerk's duty) in the absence of Mr. Luther."		
1816 from Nov. 2 to 1820 inclusive,	JOSEPH E. READ,	5½ years.
1821 to 1824 inclusive,	JOHN C. BORDEN,	4 "
1825,	NATHANIEL B. BORDEN,	1 year.
1826 to 1830 inclusive,	BENJAMIN ANTHONY,	5 years.
1831 to 1835 "	STEPHEN K. CRARY,	5 "
1836 to 1845 "	BENJAMIN EARL,	10 "
1846 to 1847 "	GEORGE S. BAKER,	2 "
1848 to 1852 "	SAM'L B. HUSSEY,	5 "
1853,	JOHN R. HODGES,	1 year.

CITY CLERKS, 1854-1876.

1854,	JOHN R. HODGES,	1 year.
1855 to 1863 inclusive,	ALVIN S. BALLARD,	9 years.
1864 to 1876 "	GEO. A. BALLARD,	13 "

TOWN OFFICERS,
1803-1854.

A.D.	Selectmen.	Treasurer.	School Committee.	Representative to General Court.	A.D.	Selectmen.	Treasurer.	School Committee.	Representative to General Court.
1803	Thomas Borden. Benjamin Durfee. Robert Miller.	Abraham Bowen.		Voted not to send.	1815	Benj. W. Brown. Sheffel Weaver. Bradford Durfee.	Joseph E. Read.		Joseph E. Read.
1804	Samuel Thurston. Benjamin Durfee. Robert Miller.	Abraham Bowen.		Abraham Bowen.	1816	Sheffel Weaver. Wm. Ashley. Wm. Read.	Joseph E. Read.		Hezekiah Wilson.
1805	Nathan Bowen. Pardon Davol. Elijah Blossom, Jr.	Abraham Bowen.		Jonath'n Brownell.	1817	Sheffel Weaver. Abraham Bowen. Wm. Ashley.	Joseph E. Read.		Hezekiah Wilson.
1806	Jona. Brownell. Abraham Bowen. Elijah Blossom, Jr.	Abraham Bowen.		Jonath'n Brownell.	1818	Benj. W. Brown. Charles Pitman. James G. Bowen.	Joseph E. Read.		Joseph E. Read.
1807	Jona. Brownell. Elijah Blossom. Stephen Leonard.	Wm. B. Canedy.		Abraham Bowen.	1819	Benj. W. Brown. Charles Pitman. James G. Bowen.	Joseph E. Read.		Joseph E. Read.
1808	Nathan Bowen. Henry Brightman. David Wilson.	Charles Durfee.	Sheffel Weaver. Wm. B. Canedy. Wm. Read, Jr.	Abraham Bowen.	1820	Sheffel Weaver. Benj. W. Brown. Rich'd Borden, 2d	James G. Bowen.		Voted not to send.
1809	David Wilson. Wm. Read, Jr. Chas. Durfee.	Charles Durfee.		Robert Miller.	1821	Robert Miller. Chas. Pitman. Enoch French.	James G. Bowen.		Abraham Bowen.
1810	David Wilson. Wm. Read, Jr. Charles Durfee.	Edward Shove.		Robert Miller.	1822	Robert Miller. Charles Pitman. Enoch French.	James G. Bowen.		Robert Miller.
1811	David Wilson. Wm. Read, Jr. Benj. Bennett, 2d.	Benjamin Brayton.		Robert Miller.	1823	Joseph E. Read. Benj. W. Brown. Edmund Chace.	James G. Bowen.		Wm. B. Canedy.
1812	Hezekiah Wilson. Wm. B. Canedy. Wm. Borden.	Edward Shove.	Edward Shove. Wm. B. Canedy. Edmund French.	Robert Miller.	1824	Enoch French. Hezekiah Wilson. William Read.	James Ford.		Wm. B. Canedy.
1813	Wm. B. Canedy. Wm. Borden. Isaac Winslow.	Joseph E. Read.		Robert Miller.	1825	Enoch French. Hezekiah Wilson. William Read.	James Ford.	Oliver Chace. Bradford Durfee. Robert Chappell.	James Ford.
1814	Wm. Borden. Benj. W. Brown. Sim. Hathaway.	Joseph E. Read.		Joseph E. Read.	1826	Enoch French. Hezekiah Wilson. William Read.	James Ford.	Jos. Hathaway. Jason H. Archer. Wm. B. Canedy. John Lindsey, Jr.	Voted not to send.

TOWN OFFICERS, 1803-1854.

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A.D.	Selectmen.	Treasurer.	School Committee.	Representative to General Court.	A.D.	Selectmen.	Treasurer.	School Committee.	Representative to General Court.
1827	Enoch French. Hezekiah Wilson. William Read.	James Ford.	Jos. Hathaway. Jas. Ford. Jason H. Archer. Wm. B. Canedy. John Lindsey, Jr. Rev. T. M. Smith. " Arth. A. Ross. " E. T. Taylor. James Ford. John Eddy.	Joseph Hathaway.	1835	John Eddy. Israel Anthony. Luther Winslow.	John S. Cotton.	O. Fowler. Asa Bronson. Simon Clough. Geo. W. Briggs. Nathan Durfee. Jas. Ford. Stephen K. Cray.	Micah H. Ruggles. Anthony Mason. Philip R. Bennett. Job B. French. Elijah Pierce.
1828	Enoch French. Sheffell Weaver. William Read.	James Ford.	James Ford. Rev. T. M. Smith. " A. A. Ross. Hezekiah Battelle. John Eddy.	Enoch French.	1836	John Eddy. Israel Anthony. Luther Winslow.	John S. Cotton.	David Anthony. James Ford. Harvey Chace.	M. H. Ruggles. Anthony Mason. Caleb B. Vickery. William Ashley. Gilbert H. Durfee.
1829	Enoch French. Sheffell Weaver. William Read.	James Ford.	James Ford. Rev. T. M. Smith. Arnold Buffum. Foster Hooper. Thomas Wilbur.	Joseph E. Read. Enoch French. Anthony Mason. John Eddy.	1837	John Eddy. Israel Anthony. Luther Winslow.	John S. Cotton.	James Ford. Joseph F. Lindsey. Benj. B. Sisson. George W. Briggs. Orin Fowler.	Micah H. Ruggles. Cyrus Alden. John Eddy. Constant B. Wyatt. Richard C. French. Philip S. Brown.
1830	Sheffell Weaver. John Eddy. William Read.	John S. Cotton.	Rev. T. M. Smith. Jason H. Archer. Arnold Buffum. Foster Hooper. Thomas Wilbur.	Fred'k Winslow. Anthony Mason. Joseph E. Read.	1838	John Eddy. Israel Anthony. Luther Winslow.	John S. Cotton.	Joseph F. Lindsey. James Ford. Benj. B. Sisson. Orin Fowler. Eliab Williams.	Fred'k Winslow. Benj. B. Sisson. Philip S. Brown. Hezekiah Battelle.
1831	Samuel Chace. Robin'n Buffinton. William Ashley.	Pyam Jacob.	Foster Hooper. Rev. T. M. Smith. Thomas Wilbur. Rev. Brad. Miner. Leander P. Lovell.	Nath'l B. Borden. Foster Hooper. Fred'k Winslow.	1839	John Eddy. Israel Anthony. Russell Hathaway.	John S. Cotton.	Orin Fowler. Asa Bronson. James Ford. Eliab Williams. Joseph F. Lindsey.	Micah H. Ruggles. Iram Smith. Geo. Brightman, 2d John A. Harris.
1832	Samuel Chace. Leonard Garfield. William Ashley.	Pyam Jacob.	Thos. Wilbur. Rev. Orin Fowler. Harvey Chace. Rev. Brad. Miner. Dr. Nath. Durfee.	Simeon Borden. Azariah Shove. Anthony Mason. Barnabas Blossom.	1840	Nath'l B. Borden. Israel Anthony. William Read.	John S. Cotton.	Orin Fowler. Asa Bronson. James Ford. Eliab Williams. Joseph F. Lindsey. Jon. S. Thompson. Geo. M. Randall.	John Eddy. Perez Mason. Nathan Durfee. Enoch French.
1833	Samuel Chace. Matth. C. Durfee. Elijah Pierce.	Pyam Jacob.	Rev. Orin Fowler. Harvey Chace. Nathan Durfee. Thomas Wilbur. Harvey Harnden. James Ford.	Simeon Borden. Azariah Shove. Smith Winslow. Isaac Borden. Earl Chace.	1841	Matth. C. Durfee. Israel Anthony. William Read.	Benjamin Earl.	Joseph F. Lindsey. Wm. H. A. Cray. Geo. M. Randall.	Linden Cook. Nathan Durfee. Job B. French.
1834	Azariah Shove. Smith Winslow. Samuel Chace.	Jonathan Slade.	Rev. Asa Bronson. Harvey Chace. Harvey Harnden. Philip R. Bennett. Thomas Wilbur. Nathan Durfee.	Nath'l B. Borden. Micah H. Ruggles. Anthony Mason. Jervis Shove. William Winslow.	1842	Jervis Shove. Stephen K. Cray. Geo. Brightman, 2d	Jonathan Slade. Wm. H. A. Cray. John Westall.	Geo. M. Randall. Wm. H. A. Cray. John Westall.	Jonathan Slade. King Dean. Wm. H. Ashley.
					1843	Jervis Shove. Israel Anthony. Perez Mason.	Benjamin Earl.	Geo. M. Randall. Wm. H. A. Cray. John Westall.	Jonathan Slade. Wm. A. Waite. Wm. V. Read.

A.D.	Selectmen.	Treasurer.	School Committee.	Representative to General Court.	A.D.	Selectmen.	Treasurer.	School Committee.	Representative to General Court.
1844	Thos. D. Chaloner. Israel Anthony. Perez Mason.	Benjamin Earl.	Henry Willard. Joseph F. Lindsey. Jonathan Slade. Louis Lapham. John Gregory.	Simeon Borden. Thos. D. Chaloner. Nathan Durfee.	1850	David Perkins. Thos. J. Pickering. Daniel Brown.	Sam'l B. Hussey.	Geo. O. Fairbanks. Sam'l Longfellow. Henry Willard. Eli Thurston. Jason H. Archer. Thomas Wilbur. Jesse Eddy.	Iram Smith. Azariah Shove.
1845	Thos. D. Chaloner Israel Anthony. Perez Mason.	Benjamin Earl.	Wm. H. A. Cray. David Perkins. Sam'l B. Hussey.	Simeon Borden. James B. Luther. Benj. F. White.	1851	Thos. J. Pickering. James Buffinton. Daniel Brown.	Sam'l B. Hussey.	Sam'l Longfellow. Jesse Eddy. Eli Thurston. Emery M. Porter. Azariah S. Tripp. Robert T. Davis. James M. Aldrich.	Nath'l B. Borden. Richard Borden. James B. Luther. Richard C. French.
1846	Israel Anthony. Leander Borden. James M. Morton.	George S. Baker.	Wm. H. A. Cray. Charles Aldrich. David Perkins.	Charles J. Holmes. Benj. W. Miller. Albert G. Eaton.	1852	James Buffinton. Geo. O. Fairbanks. Azariah Shove. Leander Borden. Ches'r W. Greene.	John R. Hodges.	Eli Thurston. James M. Aldrich. David A. Wallace. Azariah S. Tripp. Jerome Dwelly.	Nathan D. Dean. Iram Smith. Ed. P. Buffinton. South'd H. Miller.
1847	Azariah Shove. Israel Anthony. Benjamin Earl.	George S. Baker.	Wm. H. A. Cray. David Perkins. Charles Aldrich.	David Perkins. Benjamin Earl. Benj. W. Miller.	1853	James Buffinton. Ches'r W. Greene. Thos. T. Potter. Geo. O. Fairbanks. Azariah Shove.	John R. Hodges.	David A. Wallace. Eli Thurston. James M. Aldrich. Azariah S. Tripp. Jerome Dwelly. Job G. Lawton. Benj. H. Davis.	Three trials, and no choice.
1848	Benj. Wardwell. Israel Anthony. Benjamin Earl.	Sam'l B. Hussey.	Charles Aldrich. Geo. O. Fairbanks. B. W. Hathaway.	David Perkins. Hezekiah Battelle. Wm. R. Robeson.					
1849	Thos. J. Pickering. David Perkins. Benjamin Earl.	Sam'l B. Hussey.	Geo. O. Fairbanks. Henry Willard. Sam'l Longfellow.	Simeon Borden. Benj. Wardwell. James Ford, zd.					

FORMATION OF A CITY GOVERNMENT.

PRELIMINARY ACTION.

At a town meeting, called by warrant, dated Jan. 25th, 1854, and holden Jan. 28th, inst.,
It was Voted, That a committee be raised to petition the Legislature in behalf of the citizens of Fall River for a City Charter, and also that the same committee draft the form of such a charter as they in their judgment may think the wants of the people may require, and report at an adjournment of this meeting.

Voted, That this committee consist of seven members.

Voted, To increase this committee by adding two.

Voted, To choose this committee by nomination at large.

Nominated and made choice of John Westall, Foster Hooper, Nathaniel B. Borden, Israel Buffinton, Thomas Wilbur, Robert C. Brown, Eliab Williams, Samuel L. Thaxter, and Louis Lapham.

Voted, That this committee have power to fill vacancies.

Voted, That the committee be instructed to report in print.

Voted, That the committee print and circulate fifteen hundred copies of their report of City Charter, and that said committee circulate their report one week previous to the time to which this meeting may adjourn.

Voted, To adjourn to three weeks from this day.

Pursuant to adjournment, the inhabitants met in the town hall, February 18th, 1854, James Buffinton, chairman, who called for report of said committee, which was read by Dr. Foster Hooper.

Voted, That the report be accepted.

Voted, That the selectmen be instructed to carry out the recommendations of the report.

At a subsequent town meeting, held by adjournment, after the adoption of several amendments in the draft for City Charter, it was voted to accept the report of the committee to draft a City Charter, as amended.

Voted, That the committee who made the draft of the City Charter be a committee to petition the Legislature to grant said City Charter.

At a town meeting legally convened, April 22d, 1854, in the town hall, to decide, Shall the act to establish the City of Fall River, passed by the General Court of this commonwealth, and approved by the Governor, April 12th, 1854, be accepted—yea or nay?

Voted, Yeas 529. Nays 247.

Fall River thus became the thirteenth city incorporated by the State of Massachusetts.

CITY OF FALL RIVER.

1854.

Pursuant to the provisions of the City Charter, a meeting was held in each of the six wards, May 6th, 1854, and a city government chosen, as follows:

For Mayor, James Buffinton.

Aldermen.

WARD.

1. James Henry,
2. Edward P. Buffinton,

WARD.

3. Oliver H. Hathaway,
4. Alvin S. Ballard,

WARD.

5. Edwin Shaw,
6. Julius P. Champney.

Common Council.

- WARD 1. Robert C. Brown,
 2. Henry Wilbur,
 3. Oliver Grinnell,
 4. Chris. W. Tillinghast,
 5. John Mason, Jr.,
 6. Smith Winslow,

- Wm. Goodman,
 Obadiah Chace,
 Gardner Groves,
 Nath'l Bonney,
 David S. Brigham,
 Sheffield Brightman,

- Peter J. Dennise,
 Henry Diman, Jr.
 Howard B. Allen,
 Wm. M. Almy,
 Thomas T. Potter,
 Albert Winslow.

MAYORS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FIRST CITY GOVERNMENT.

May 15th, 1854.

At a session of the Mayor and Aldermen elect, May 15th, 1854, previous to the administering of the oath of office, the members of this Board, and Board of Common Council, made choice of Alvan S. Ballard, clerk pro tem.

Ordered, That a set of Rules and Orders presented by Alderman Shaw, be adopted by this Board temporarily.

Voted, That a committee of two, consisting of Aldermen Shaw and Henry, notify the Common Council that this Board is now ready to meet them in convention for such business as may legally come before the City Council.

In Board of Common Council, concurred.
Adjourned to City Hall, to meet in convention.

The officers present were then marshaled into the City Hall by Col. Wm. Sisson, accompanied by the selectmen, where a large number of the citizens were in attendance to witness the ceremonies, and to hear the inaugural address of Mayor Buffinton.

The meeting was called to order by Chester W. Greene, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, and the throne of grace was addressed by Rev. Benjamin J. Relyea.

The names of the city officers elect were called by the Clerk, and the oath of office administered by James Ford, Esq., Justice of the Peace.

Chester W. Greene then addressed the Mayor in behalf of the Board of Selectmen.
Mayor Buffinton then delivered his inaugural address.

After which the Boards of Aldermen and Common Councilmen separated, each going to their respective rooms.

MAYORS OF THE CITY OF FALL RIVER.

1854-1876.

Hon. James Buffinton,	1854, '55.	Hon. George O. Fairbanks,	1867, '68.
" Edward P. Buffinton, {	1856, '60, '61, '62,	" Samuel M. Brown,	1869, '70, '71, '72.
" Nathaniel B. Borden,	'63, '64, '65, '66.	" Robert T. Davis,	1873.
" Josiah C. Blaisdell,	1857.	" James F. Davenport,	1874, '75, '76, '77.
	1858, '59.		

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

RESIDENTS OF FALL RIVER.

Hon. Nathaniel B. Borden.	XXVth Congress,	1837-38
	XXVIth "	1839-40
	XXVIIth "	1843-44
Rev. Orin Fowler.	XXXIst Congress,	1849-50
	XXXIId "	1851-52
Hon. James Buffinton.*	XXXIVth Congress,	1855-56
	XXXVIth "	1859-60
	XXXVIIth "	1861-62
	XXXVIIIth "	1863-64
	XLIId "	1871-72
	XLIIId "	1873-74

* Elected to the XLIVth Congress, but died before the opening of the session.

STATE SENATORS.

RESIDENTS OF FALL RIVER.

Fall River was first honored in 1838, by the choice of one of her citizens to the position of State Senator of Massachusetts.* Since that date, she has often had a representative in this branch of the Great and General Court, viz.:

A.D. 1838,	Hon. John Eddy.	A.D. 1857,	Hon. Jeremiah S. Young.
1840-1842,	Dr. Foster Hooper.	1859-1861,	Dr. Robert T. Davis.
1843,	Dr. Phineas W. Leland.	1865,	Hon. Josiah C. Blaisdell.
1845-1847,	Hon. Nathaniel B. Borden.	1867-1868,	Hon. Samuel Angier Chace.
1848,	Rev. Orin Fowler.	1869-1870,	Hon. John B. Hathaway.
1854,	Col. Richard Borden.	1871-1874,	Hon. Charles P. Stickney.
1855-1856,	Hon. Joseph E. Dawley.	1877,	Hon. Charles J. Holmes.

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE MASSACHUSETTS* LEGISLATURE.

1854-1876.

1854,	{ Mark A. Slocum. Job G. Lawton.	1867,	{ Abraham G. Hart. John B. Hathaway.
1855,	{ Daniel Leonard. Asa P. French. Jona. E. Morrill. Benjamin H. Davis.	1868,	{ Abraham G. Hart. Weaver Osborn. Iram Smith.
1856,	{ Brayton Slade. Jona. E. Morrill. John S. Brayton. Job B. Ashley.	1869,	{ Abraham G. Hart. Weaver Osborn. Iram Smith.
1857,	{ Jona. E. Morrill. Vernon Cook. Brownell W. Woodman John E. Grouard.	1870,	{ Edward T. Marvell. George O. Fairbanks. Abraham G. Hart.
1858,	{ Josiah C. Blaisdell. Jona. E. Morrill.	1871,	{ Frederick A. Boomer. Weaver Osborn. George O. Fairbanks.
1859,	{ Stephen C. Wrightington. Thomas T. Potter.	1872,	{ Thomas F. Holder. George O. Fairbanks. George H. Eddy.
1860,	{ Lloyd S. Earle. Stephen C. Wrightington.	1873,	{ George O. Fairbanks. Charles J. Holmes. Weaver Osborn.
1861,	{ Lloyd S. Earle. Stephen C. Wrightington.	1874,	{ George O. Fairbanks. Daniel McGowan. John Davol, Jr.
1862,	{ Simeon Borden. Henry Pratt.	1875,	{ Southard H. Miller. Nicholas Hathaway. William Carroll.
1863,	{ Simeon Borden. Henry Pratt.	1876,	{ George O. Fairbanks. Weaver Osborn. Albion K. Slade.
1864,	{ Nathaniel B. Borden. Andrew D. Bullock.	1877,	{ Weaver Osborn. John B. Whitaker. Iram Smith. Franklin Gray. Pardon Macomber.
1865,	{ S. Angier Chace. Fred. A. Boomer.		
1866,	{ Josiah C. Blaisdell. John B. Hathaway.		

* While still a part of Freetown, Hon. Thomas Durfee, a citizen of Fall River, was chosen a Senator, from 1781 to 1788.

GOVERNMENT
OF THE
CITY OF FALL RIVER,
1877.

MAYOR.

HON. JAMES F. DAVENPORT.

ALDERMEN.

Ward 1. JOSEPH O. NEILL.
Ward 2. PATRICK J. LUNNEY.
Ward 3. QUINLAN LEARY.

Ward 4. JOHN A. MACFARLANE.
Ward 5. BRADFORD D. DAVOL.
Ward 6. HOLDER B. DURFEE.

CITY CLERK

GEO. A. BALLARD.

COMMON COUNCIL.

WILLIAM S. GREENE, *President.*

WARD 1.

WILLIAM WOLFENDALE,*
WILLIAM H. CHACE,
EDWARD P. BAGGETT.

WARD 2.

JAMES D. O'NEIL,
PATRICK J. MCCARTY,
MICHAEL L. IVERS.

WARD 3.

H. GORDON WEBSTER,
WILLIAM BURGESS,
JOHN A. CONNELLY.

WARD 4.

HENRY NORSWORTHY,
ANDREW MCDERMOTT,
DENNIS GARVEY.

WARD 5.

WILLIAM S. GREENE,
JOSEPH M. DARLING,
SIMEON B. CHASE.

WARD 6.

JOHN P. SLADE,
JAMES H. WILSON,
CHARLES L. RIPLEY.

AUGUSTUS B. LEONARD, *Clerk.*

* Resigned, March 5, 1877.

CITY OFFICERS.

City Clerk, GEORGE A. BALLARD.
 Treasurer and Collector, JAMES C. BRADY.
 Auditor, GEORGE W. BILLINGS.
 Superintendent of Streets, DANFORTH HORTON.
 Superintendent of Schools, WILLIAM CONNELL, JR.
 City Marshal, ANDREW R. WRIGHT.
 Chief Engineer Fire Department, WM. C. DAVOL,
 JR.
 City Solicitor, MILTON REED.
 City Physician, J. A. TOURTELOTTE.
 Superintendent of Almshouse, JOSEPH BORDEN.

Superintendent of Oak Grove Cemetery, J. E. MORRILL.
 Superintendent of North Cemetery, JAMES G. HYLAND.
 Clerk of Common Council, A. B. LEONARD.
 City Messenger, D. D. O'NEIL.
 Warden Court House, EDWARD DRISCOLL.
 Surveyor of Lumber, HERBERT A. SKINNER.
 Sealer of Weights and Measures, D. D. O'NEAL.
 Inspector of Milk, ELISHA FULLER.
 Measurer of Grain, ANDREW FERGUSON.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Chairman,
 JAMES M. ALDRICH.

Secretary,
 WILLIAM CONNELL, JR.

JAMES M. ALDRICH,
 JEROME DWELLY,
 ANDREW J. JENNINGS,
 CHARLES J. HOLMES,

WILLIAM H. BRIC,
 WILLIAM W. ADAMS,
 CHARLES E. MILLS,
 IRAM SMITH,

THOMAS F. EDDY.

Supt. of Public Schools,
 WILLIAM CONNELL, JR.

Truant Officers,
 WILLIAM READ, JOHN BRADY.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

City Marshal,
 ANDREW R. WRIGHT

Assistant Marshal,
 ALBERT T. PIERCE.

Captain,
 HENRY A. DEXTER.

Sergeants,

EMANUEL WILCOX,
 CHARLES HINCKLEY,

WILLIAM B. LING,
 JULIAN T. PEMBER,

JOHN DEARDON.

Clerk of Police Department,
 STEPHEN B. GARDNER.

CITY GOVERNMENT OF FALL RIVER, 1877.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Chief Engineer,

WILLIAM C. DAVOL, JR.

Assistant Engineer,

ISAAC T. BROWNELL.

District Engineers,

District No. 1. ALVAN C. SEYMOUR,

District No. 2. BENJAMIN MOTT,

District No. 3. EDWARD T. MARVEL.

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

MAYOR DAVENPORT,
HENRY LYON,
CHARLES J. HOLMES,SIMEON BORDEN,
ROBERT T. DAVIS,
J. R. LEARY,

WALTER PAINE, 2D.

Librarian, WILLIAM R. BALLARD.

WATUPPA WATER BOARD.

PHILIP D. BORDEN,

WILLIAM LINDSEY,

JOHN BUTLER.

Superintendent, WILLIAM ROTCH.*Registrar,* C. H. CHURCHILL.

SINKING FUND COMMISSIONERS.

MAYOR DAVENPORT,
GEORGE W. BILLINGS,
ALPHONSO S. COVEL,CHARLES P. STICKNEY,
SIMEON BORDEN,
WILLIAM S. GREENE.

ASSESSORS.

JEREMIAH KELLEY,

SAMUEL M. BROWN,

JOHN H. ESTES.