

JAMES KIMBALL

DEACON JAMES KIMBALL.

In presenting a sketch of the life of Deacon James Kimball, it seems suitable to prefix some account of his father, Deacon Daniel Kimball, the progenitor of the Kimball family in Littleton:

Daniel Kimball was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, July 14, 1751. Soon after his removal to Littleton the Revolutionary War broke out. He entered the army, in which he soon obtained the rank of lieutenant.

In 1779 he married Lucy Dutton, of Littleton. Of their twelve children, three died in infancy; the remainder all married and settled in Littleton. The following are their names:

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Daniel, James, Benjamin, Jesse, Lucy (Kimball) Mead, John, Sophia (Kimball) Harwood, Sebia (Kimball) Goldsmith and Rebecca (Kimball) Fletcher.

At the present time (1890) more than sixty worthy descendants of Deacon Daniel Kimball reside in Littleton, and more than 125 are scattered through the States from Vermont to California. He died in 1813, aged sixty-two years.

In the archives of the town library may be found a funeral sermon preached by Rev. Edmund Foster, in which his character is delineated.

Deacon James Kimball, second son of Deacon Daniel Kimball, was born in Littleton in 1783.

He married, in 1807, Rachel Hartwell, of Littleton. Of their ten children, two—Sophia (Kimball) Hurter, of Jacksonville, Florida, and Elizabeth (Kimball) Stevens, for many years a resident of Lowell—are still living.

James Kimball was, while quite a young man, prominent in town and other public interests. He was one of the pioneers of the anti-slavery and temperance movements. From 1838 to 1851 he was town clerk.

He was an interested and active member of the Lyceum from its beginning: a society which for more than half a century has had an important educational influence in the town.

He was for many years chosen as one of the Board of Selectmen, and for a considerable period represented the town in the State Legislature. He was deacon of the Orthodox Congregational Church from its organization (which occurred in his own house), in 1840, to his death. He had previously held the office of deacon in the Unitarian Church.

His second wife was Mrs. Mary B. Harris.

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He died in 1869, aged eighty-six years. His life fully warranted the estimate of his character shown by his father in the advice given his children upon his death-bed: "My children, take James for an example."