

# BARNABAS DODGE

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Barnabas Dodge, an old and respected citizen of Littleton, was of English stock, the ancestor of the American branch of the family, William Dodge, being among the company that landed at Salem in 1629, under the leadership of John Endicott.

His father, John Dodge, served in the War of the Revolution, under his father, Captain John Dodge. His maternal grandfather, Barnabas Dodge, was a captain in Colonel Gerrish's regiment, which was in service at the battle of Bunker Hill.

Mr. Dodge was born in Wenham, Massachusetts, in 1795. His father was a farmer, but in his youth had made several voyages to foreign countries, as was common with the young men in the coast towns at that time. The family came to Littleton in 1818, having bought the estate known as the Captain Cogswell farm, in the north part of the town. In his youth Mr. Dodge taught a district school. While in this employment he met, as his pupil, Miss Sarah Corning, of Beverly, who in 1820 became his wife. Mr. Dodge cultivated and greatly improved his farm, never seeking public life or honors. It has been said of the Dodge family, that they do not seek public office, but when it is conferred upon them, that they perform its duties with ability and fidelity. This was true of the subject of this sketch. He held various town offices, school committee, selectman, &c. He was the father of ten children, who lived to adult age. The eldest daughter became a teacher. After several terms in the district schools of Littleton, she became successively principal of the Townsend Female Seminary,

whence she had graduated; Oread Institute, Worcester; Codman Hill Young Ladies' School, Dorchester; Ladies' Department Kalamazoo College, Michigan, and of Colby Academy, New London, New Hampshire. She was superintendent of schools in Littleton four years after her return to her native town in 1877. Another daughter was for several years teacher in the Winchester High School. She married Rev. E. B. Eddy, of Calais, Maine, and died in 1879. Two of the sons are in business in Cambridge; two remain in Littleton. Three of the daughters and four sons are still (1890) living.

Mr. Dodge was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, was a diligent reader, and assisted in forming two small town libraries, which, unfortunately, survived but a few years. His older children remember the interest which all felt when the father brought home a new book from the library, and their enjoyment of the winter evenings when he would read aloud from these, or the family newspaper, as they worked around the cheerful fire-place, filled high with glowing logs, over the ruddy heaps of living coals beneath. Mr. Dodge was an honest man. No one could ever bring against him charges of cheating or meanness in trade. He was truthful, sympathetic and a faithful friend. He was interested in the affairs of the town and of the state and the nation, never seeking to control them, but always on the side of what he believed to be the right. He died in 1873. His wife survived him fifteen years, dying at the old homestead, still in possession of the family, to which she had come as a youthful bride almost seventy years before.

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