

Civil War Reunion Party

Formal Script for Sarah Heard

Welcome everyone to this special 15th Reunion celebrating the end of the War of the Rebellion and the freedom of slaves throughout the Union. It is fitting that we meet in 1880 since it is now the 100th anniversary of the banning of slavery in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Sarah Elizabeth Heard. My husband, John Augustus Heard was born and raised in this house. After the death of John's mother, Jerusha, he and I moved into this Heard family home.

With us tonight is Lydia Hudson, who many of you will remember as our school teacher, Lydia Rutter Draper. Mrs. Hudson, was it difficult being the first woman principal of the High School? _____

Also with us tonight is our distinguished authoress and activist for the freedom of slaves and the political rights of women, Lydia Maria Child.

Mrs. Child, Uncle Billy often told me how much he appreciated your walking up the Mill Road to visit him and how much he enjoyed your conversations about Emancipation. Did you enjoy these discussions as well?

Alfred Wayland Cutting is here tonight. He is a young man of great promise.

What is your current interest, Mr. Cutting? _____

Please welcome our esteemed guest, James Madison Bent, owner of the Bent Shoe Company. We want to congratulate you, Mr. Bent, for a fine showing at the fire companies' first anniversary parade and speed trials. Your men of the James M. Bent Hose Company pulled their hose carriage 1/4 mile, laid 150 feet of hose and put a stream of water on a roof in just one minute and fifty seconds! (lead applause) Mr. Bent, would you like to say a few words about this accomplishment?

My father-in-law, Newell Heard, passed away at the end of the War. His cousin, Horace Heard is here tonight. Mr. Heard and Mr. Bent often attend meetings at the new Town Hall and despite their philosophical differences, remain fast friends. What do you think of the new Town Hall, Horace? _____

Our dear Mrs. Child does not approve of the Town's expenditure and refers to the grand edifice as the "Wayland Folly," isn't that true Mrs. Child?"

I am proud to introduce my daughter, Blanche. She is growing into a fine young woman. I wish Uncle Billy Grout were here to see her. Were you and he ever able to see the planets with the telescope he fashioned at the Mill?

The venerable Reverend John Burt Wight is attending this evening. He and the late Reverend Sears served the First Parish Congregation faithfully for many years. Were you in attendance when Reverend Sears first led the congregation in the singing of his hymn, "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear?" _____

Our heartfelt thanks go to all of those townspeople who served in the Great Rebellion. Please extend a welcome to Frank Draper, Charles Campbell and John Noyes Morse who so valiantly served together in the 35th Regiment. Was it company D? _____

Also welcome William Henry Garfield and Charles Butterfield who served in the 39th Regiment? _____

And Thomas Wade, I believe you served our country as a Captain, was it, of the Navy? We are proud of all of you.

We are glad to have Dora Thurston Whitney with us. Her first husband, Hiram Thurston died in service with the 38th Regiment. Our sympathies, Mrs. Whitney. _____

And our condolences to Charles Dean on the death 4 years ago of his brother, Thomas. _____

And now, in honor of those who served, let us share some memories of the War Years.

STUDENTS TAKE OVER

After "**Gettysburg Address**" and "**Battle Hymn of the Republic**"

Thank you so much for the moving memories. I look forward to seeing you all at the next Reunion. Good Evening!