

OBITUARIES

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN

Dr. Samuel Abbott Green died in Boston, on December 5, 1918, in the 89th year of his age. He was the son of Dr. Joshua Green and Eliza Lawrence Green. He was born in Groton on March 16, 1830, and always lived there for part of the year. He fitted for college at Groton Academy and was graduated from Harvard College in the class of 1851, of which he was the last surviving member. He was graduated from the Harvard Medical School in 1854. He continued his medical studies in Paris, and then returned to Boston to practice his profession.

On May 19, 1858, he was commissioned surgeon of the 2d Massachusetts militia regiment by Governor Banks. On the breaking out of the Civil war he entered the service as assistant surgeon of the 1st Massachusetts regiment and was the first medical officer of the state to be mustered into the three years' service. He was promoted to be surgeon of the 24th Massachusetts regiment, September 2, 1861, and had charge of the hospital ship *Recruit* in General Burnside's expedition to North Carolina, and later of the hospital steamer *Cosmopolitan* on the coast of South Carolina. He was chief medical officer at Morris Island during the siege of Fort Wagner in the summer of 1863, and was post surgeon at St. Augustine, Fla., in October, 1863, and at Jacksonville in March, 1864. He was with the army at the capture of Bermuda Hundred in May, 1864, and was acting staff surgeon in Richmond, for three months following the surrender of that city in April, 1865. In 1864 he was breveted lieutenant-colonel for "gallant and distinguished services in the field."

Upon his return to Boston in 1865, Doctor Green became superintendent of the Boston dispensary. In 1871 he was appointed city physician and filled that office until he was elected mayor in 1882. He had been a member of the school board, 1860-62 and 1866-72, trustee of the Boston Public Library 1868-78, and acting librarian from October, 1877, to October, 1878. He was a trustee of the Peabody Education Fund.

Doctor Green was overseer of Harvard University from 1869 to 1880. In 1870 he was appointed by Governor Claflin one of a commission to care for disabled soldiers. In 1878 he was a member of the board of experts authorized by Congress to investigate the causes and prevention of yellow fever, and a member of the board of commissioners to investigate the condition of the records, files, papers, and documents in the State department of Massachusetts. From 1871 to 1891 he was also one of the editors of the *American Journal of Numismatics*.

Doctor Green had written many books and pamphlets, among them: "My Campaign in America, a Journal kept by Count William de Deux-Ponts, 1780-81, translated from the French manuscript, with and introduction and notes;" "The story of a Famous Book;" an account of Dr. Benjamin Franklin's autobiography; "School Histories and Some Errors in Them;" "Epitaphs from the old Burying Ground in Groton;" "Early Records of Groton, 1662-1678;" "History of Medicine in Massachusetts;" "Groton during the Indians Wars;" "Groton During the Witchcraft Times;" "Boundary Lines of old Groton;" "The Geography of Groton," prepared for the use of the Appalachian mountain club; "Groton Historical Series," three volumes; "An Account of the Physicians and Dentists of Groton;" "An Account of the Lawyers of Groton;" "The Career of Benjamin Franklin," a paper read before the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, May 25, 1893, on the 150th anniversary of its foundation; "An Address

before the Old Residents' Historical Association of Lowell;" "An Account of the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society;" a "List of the Early American Imprints" in the library of that society; and "An Historical Sketch of Groton, 1655-1890."

In May, 1896, the University of Nashville conferred on Doctor Green the honorary degree of LL.D.

He was for nineteen years first vice-president of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and librarian at the time of his death. He was a constant attendant at the meetings, even when his physical disability was so great that he was brought into the room in a wheel-chair, which was always placed on the left of the presiding officer. Doctor Green was elected a member of this Society in 1865, was a member of the council from 1874 until 1904, when he was elected vice-president. The last meeting of the council that he attended was in 1911.

Doctor Green's life was most unusual, exhibiting in a high degree great industry, a prodigious capacity for work, and conspicuous service in many varied fields of activity. He will long remain in the memory of his associates, who will miss the companionship, now ended, of so many years.

C. G. W.

SAMUEL SWETT GREEN

Samuel Swett Green, son of James and Elizabeth (Swett) Green of Worcester, was descended in the eighth generation from Thomas Green, who settled in Malden about the middle of the seventeenth century. He was born in Worcester, February 20, 1837, and died there December 28, 1918. Entering Harvard College at the age of seventeen, he was graduated in the Class of 1858, and immediately entered the Harvard Divinity School, but his health failing he was obliged to give up study temporarily, and took a sea

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