

**A BRIEF RECORD OF THE
PHYSICIANS OF QUINCY,
MASSACHUSETTS, FROM THE
EARLIEST TIMES; JUNE 17, 1890**

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A Brief Record of the Physicians of Quincy, Massachusetts, from the Earliest times; June 17, 1890 by Annie E. Faxon

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COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY
ANNIE E. FAXON
For the Benefit of the Hospital Fund

JUNE 17, 1890

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Bright Fund

"THE HEALING OF HIS SEAMLESS DRESS
IS BY OUR BEDS OF PAIN;
WE TOUCH HIM IN LIFE'S THROG AND PRESS,
AND WE ARE WHOLE AGAIN."

PRESS OF
ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL
BOSTON, MASS.

Our motto is taken from a statue in the Latin Quarter, representing a printer, ULRICH GERING, who, with his two partners, introduced printing in Paris in 1470. He holds a book in his hand with the following pithy inscription: —

Ne fugite ob pretium
Dives paupe que venite !
Hoc opus magniloquens,
Venditur auro brevi,

which is,

Do not flee on account of the price,
The rich and the poor come here.
This magnificent work
Can be purchased with a little gold.

IN this lovely June of 1890, when so many are interested in the opening of our beautiful new hospital, — the gift of our generous townsman, William B. Rice, — one who owes a debt of gratitude to many faithful physicians has compiled these few remembrances of past and present medical men, and published them for the benefit of the hospital fund. Thanks are due to the many friends who helped in this labor of love.

The first figure who comes up is

DR. BENJAMIN THOMPSON, school teacher, and poet also, for thirty years. A stone records that he died weary of life, leaving eight children and thirty-eight grandchildren. Another record adds quaintly, "Whereas, there has been an old reckoning upon ye account of my service for many years, which I have served them in all that may issue in love, etc., I do forever acquitt and discharge the town of Braintry from all dues and demands, this being a mutual and everlasting discharge. June, 1700."

From a venerable volume compiled by Henry Whitney, we read that next —

DR. JOHN WILSON, born in England, graduated in medicine in 1705, and settled here.

DR. EDWARD STEADMAN was formerly a physician in this place.

DR. ELISHA SAVIL, from Harvard in 1743, practised here, and died in 1768. He lived in the Mears House, now Dr. French's. Two Doctors Savil have lived since Elisha Savil, and a third descendant of his, James Shannon, graduated in medicine.

DR. EBENEZER BRACKETT, son of James B., born in 1743. From Dartmouth in 1791, entered upon practice in this town, but died a few months after. He was a young man of great promise. Miss Brackett is a descendant of his.

DR. BENJAMIN VINTON, of Harvard, 1796, was, we read, a respected medical man. He lived in the Elisha Marsh house on Granite street.

DR. HENRY TURNER, for many years a respectable physician, died January, 1773. He united the profession of tavern-keeper with the dispensing of physic, and lived in the house of Benjamin Gray. Tradition speaks of a German woman, Mrs. Hartwig, probably a great-great-grandmother of the present Hardwicks, who practised medicine then.

DR. PHIPPS came then, and he is the first of the physicians about whom much is known. He graduated from Harvard in 1757, settling here in 1768, continuing an eminent practitioner until his death, Nov. 4, 1817, aged 85. He lived in

the Wild house, on Franklin street. He was hard of hearing, and his wife used to go around with him, carrying a slate to take notes of what was needed. The late James Baxter was a grandson of Dr. Phipps.

Coming now into this century, a long list of those who came and went, embraces but few who were fixtures,—doctors of medicine seeming birds of passage. It is of those who were identified most closely with us that details are of interest.

DR. PHIPPS' son, Thomas, succeeded him in medical work, and judging from a letter written by one of his granddaughters, we feel sure that the pretty romance that has always clung to his name is true. The Williams House was a hotel once, and this young doctor stopped there the night a baby girl was born, and he said he would wait for that baby to be his wife. When she was eighteen, and he was forty, they were married. Judging from the charming letters sent to us, which were written to his wife, when in mid-winter he undertook the severe sea-voyage to the South for his health, this marriage was an ideal one, and we quote from the quaint writing in the folded letters, minus envelopes, secured by a wafer. The postage on these is marked in red, 25 cents each.

“As this letter will probably be the Last you will receive from me for a long time, I feel as though I ought make known to you my mind