

THE EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION, INC.
NEWS LETTER

FALL 1979

NUMBER 39

WHY A NEWS LETTER?

This number of the Edmund Rice (1638) Association News Letter is the 39th issue since the Semi-Annual publication was first begun in 1960 by the late Frederick Rice, former Association President and co-compiler of the Genealogical Register of Edmund Rice Descendants. Prior to that time the Association members had been approached only spasmodically -- just before and sometimes just after the annual reunion.

As the membership of the organization expanded, with families scattering more widely, a need was seen for greater contact to promote family unity. Hence the present publication.

I believe most of us would agree that we like the basic thoughts and aspirations of those people who are responsible for our being Americans today. We might be very wise if we could know enough of their characters and personalities to learn from their mistakes and to profit from their wisdom. And that is the function of this News Letter -- to help you know the Rices of the past as well as those of today.

Your new editor asks your help in giving you the sort of communication you want. Please send me news items about yourselves and anecdotes of your families, past and present.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

MARGARET

SECRETARY'S REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING

Traditionally we gather for our annual Rice Reunion on a cool, crisp, clear fall day, but this year it was a rainy day, of which we have had many!

Our gathering of cousins and friends on Sunday, September 30, 1979, began at 10:00 A.M. at the Woodcock Garrison Compound in North Attleboro, Massachusetts. Some of us enjoyed this location previously at our 1976 reunion. Registration and reception at the Olde School House was followed by an enlightening tour of the restored Woodcock Garrison House which dates from the early 1600's. A Board Meeting of Officers, Directors and Past Presidents was held at the School House.

Upon completion of the morning events we gathered at the Brook Manor Restaurant for our luncheon-- (more like a banquet)-- and our annual business meeting which president Whiting Rice called to order at 1:55 P.M.

A big "thank you" went to William and Dorothy Rice, our host and hostess at the Woodcock Garrison House.

Our Past President, Seaver M. Rice, told the old story of the capture by Indians in 1704 of several Rice boys who were carried captive to Canada. This story introduced us to none other than Mrs. Theresa Jemison of Basom (near Buffalo), New York. She is a great, great, great granddaughter of Mary Josephine, daughter of Silas Rice, one of the captured boys. You will find the story in our News letter, No. 24, June, 1972. Worth reading again! It was a moving experience to meet this Indian lady in person and our applause hopefully showed it.

Reports by our secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

(Continued)

Past President Charles W. Rice read the report of the Nominating Committee's list of officers and directors for 1979-1980. A motion to accept the list as read was voted, and the secretary instructed to cast one vote for the slate. Names of the new governing board of the Association appear on page four.

Gifts were given to Helen Rice Randall, eighty-nine years young, the oldest one present, and to seven-year-old Danielle Marie Appleton, the youngest, the granddaughter of Allen and Edith Rice of Englewood, Fla., who received the distance prize.

Speakers for the afternoon were Steve Adams, Professional Antiques dealer and auctioneer, and Ronald Tracey, Museum fund raiser of the Rhode Island Historical Society. Steve discussed the fun of collecting antiques and the investment potential of collecting in specific categories. Ron presented a brief slide show illustrating some of the fine antiques in the home of the Rhode Island Historical Society, and spoke of the preservation of these artifacts from an institutional viewpoint.

Our President called attention to the fact that our next annual reunion will be on the last Sunday of September, 1980 (the 28th) at a place to be announced.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 P.M. following which our annual tribute by placing a wreath at the grave of Deacon Edmund Rice in Wayland, Massachusetts was made by our faithful members, Henry E. Rice, Jr. and John E. Rice.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louise Rice Trudeau,
Recording Secretary

GOVERNING BOARD

Officers for 1979-1980:

President: C. Whiting Rice, Jr.
P.O.Box 298, Sheldonville, MA 02070

1st Vice President: William H. Drury
24 Buckman Dr., Chelmsford, MA 01824

2nd Vice President: Robert F. Royce
27 Hubert St., West Haven, CT 06516

Treasurer: John E. Rice
20 Mackay Dr., Marlborough, MA 01752

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Louise Rice Trudeau
William Street, Chester, MA 01011

Corresponding Secretary & News Letter Editor:
Miss Margaret S. Rice,
Lion's Mouth Road, Amesbury, MA 01913

Directors

Cynthia Blomstrom, Worcester, MA
Edward F. P. Brigham, Miami, FL
A. Sidney Brigham, Marlborough, MA
Patricia F. MacFarland, Northborough, MA
Larisa Rice, Sheldonville, MA
Janet F. Royce, West Haven, CT

Living Past Presidents

Charles W. Rice, Wrentham, MA	1955-56 & 1974-75
Stanley I. Rice, Epsom, N.H.	1958-59
Donald H. Whittemore, Scituate, MA	1959-60
William H. Hoeffler, Geneva, NY	1963-65
Ray Lowther Ellis, Boston, MA	1965-67
Jeneve M. Melvin, Swampscott, MA	1968-69 pro-tem
Allen F. Rice, Englewood, FL	1969-73
Margaret E. Allen, Holden, MA	1973-74
Seaver M. Rice, Southbridge, MA	1975-76
Henry E. Rice, Jr., Framingham, MA	1976-78

THE SUN GOES DOWN.....

In 1979 we have been notified of the death of:

Mrs. Mary Rice Everhart	Miss Eleanor Hoeffler
Mrs. Victoria Rice Mercer	Mrs. Grace Rice
Mr. Harold A. Rice	Mr. Harry C. Rice
Mr. Martin H. Rice	Mr. Frank D. Smith
Mrs. Hazel Rice Smith	

TO RISE UPON ANOTHER SHORE

In 1979 29 new members have joined the Association:

Captain Theodore J.F. Banvard, U.S.N.(Ret.)
 Mrs. Marinus Boogert
 Mrs. Virginia Mercer Brown
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. Cook
 Mrs. Ross Cherry (re-instated, formerly Mrs. Carl Tiffany)
 Miss Karen Danstedt
 Mr. & Mrs. James Evans
 Mrs. Barbara G. Hawkey
 Mr. Louis I. Jaffe, Jr.
 Mrs. Ruth Seaver Kirk
 Miss Jane Kirk
 Mr. & Mrs. Francis A. Lambert & 3 children
 Mrs. Ruby B. Powell
 Mr. Abbott Eames Rice
 Mr. Edward Ambler Rice
 Mr. Timothy L. Sanford
 Mrs. Opal Rice Sinatra
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Serozinsky
 Mrs. Ruth White Serozinsky
 Mrs. June Rice Steckler
 Mr. David Tiffany
 Mrs. J. T. Watts
 Miss Allyne Rhys Wesson
 Mrs. Carolyn W. Wherry

A REAL MINI-REUNION!

For years some members of the Edmund Rice Association have been encouraging regional reunions of Rices far afield of the original home grounds. The latest such gathering is reported by Roger and Fern Rice of Oklahoma City who hosted a group of their near kin this fall. We quote a part of the report in the Eureka (Kansas) Herald of October 11, 1979.

"Descendants of three pioneer Greenwood County Rice Families converged at the courthouse assembly room in Eureka on Sunday, October 7, to hold a combined first-time-ever dinner and reunion to celebrate more than three and a half centuries of their American heritage. Direct or related members attending, some from as far away as California, represented the progeny of the late Jabez Judson Rice, 1835-1931, John Sherman Rice, 1838-1937, and Adelbert Rufus Rice, 1848-1944. The three Rice brothers were farmers in the Eureka, Climax and Severy vicinities....."

They were also descendants in the eighth generation from Edmund Rice, and a number of the group are members of our Association.

OUR MEMBERS WRITE

"My lovely wife and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last October and are still well and happy."

Your cousin, Raymond A. Rice,
 Bakersfield, CA.

"On January 6, 1979, I was married to Ernest E. Ledoux after having been widowed for more than ten years."

Eva(Coutu) Ledoux,
 Nashua, N.H.

"In case the Society's genealogist - (is there one?) - would like to record it, my son, Louis I. Jaffe, Jr., was married on Dec. 29, 1978, to Leslie Orme of Colorado Springs, CO."

Alice Rice Jaffe,
 Norfolk, VA

THE HARRY RICE MUSEUM

Harry Rice loved New England; he loved the town of Sudbury and his home there. All his life he had tramped the valley of the Sudbury River in Eastern Massachusetts. In his wanderings, and as he walked the plowed fields of his farm, he gathered a remarkable collection of utensils of the early English settlers and ancient artifacts used by the pre-historic peoples who populated the valley dating back to 7,000 B.C. and beyond.

Now those remains of an early culture will serve as the heart of a museum unique to Massachusetts, to New England, and perhaps to the entire United States.

Plagued by illness, at the age of seventy-five Rice sold his forty-five acre farm to the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, and started for Arizona in pursuit of better health. He never reached there, dying in Kansas last winter.

Before he left Sudbury he had given his collection of artifacts to the Historical Society there. Then, in his will, he left \$100,000 to the town of Sudbury with the stipulation it be used for establishment of a museum to honor early American and Indian life. There is now the possibility that the town, the Historical Society, and the Federal Service may all cooperate to use the Rice farm for that purpose.

Harry Rice was a descendant of Edmund Rice who, at the time of his death in 1663 owned over 1,000 acres of land in and about Sudbury. It is pleasant to think that the very acres which will be devoted to preserving the memory of those early people may have been Edmund's. The early American hoe that Harry Rice turned up in his plowing, or the pestle unearthed while clearing a stand of birches could once have been used by Edmund or his sons.

THE SEBASTIAN STORY

Sebastian Miniatures, known and loved world-wide, have become one of the most prized of collectibles. They are designed and created by Prescott Woodbury Baston, a descendant in two lines from Deacon Edmund Rice, and a member of the Rice Family Association.

Prescott came naturally by his talent. His father was a miniature modeler and wood carver for the landscape architectural firm of Olmstead Brothers of Brookline, MA, the firm that designed Boston's Public Gardens and New York City's Cloisters and Central Park. While studying at the Vesper George School of Art in Boston, Prescott worked afternoons with his father, modeling and painting in miniature. Late into the night he would read on art, history, and classical literary writers.

In 1938 the owner of the Old Shaker Glen House in Woburn, Massachusetts, asked if Prescott could sculpt a miniature Shaker man and woman. He did, and a new career was begun. He produced several more figures and the first store to carry Sebastian Miniatures, (Olsen's on Brattle Street in Cambridge, Mass.) began providing his work to collectors.

Prescott says, "Two goals have guided my work through the years, first, to do the most honest portrayal I can, and second, to create scenes so appealing that other people immediately experience a sense of pleasure from them. First I get an idea for a collectible series — usually an historical 'turn of the century' type of thing. then I study up as much as I can on the customs, costumes, and the kind of life those people led."

Up to now he has completed 283 separate miniatures in forty years, 53 of them commissioned for private personal and institutional art.

IT COSTS MONEY---

Now-a-days, as we don't need to remind anyone, — everything costs money. But what we are most concerned about is the cost of this News Letter. The only thing the Edmund Rice (1638) Association can give you free is the services of your various officers and your News Letter Editor. (And if you don't think you are getting a bargain there, just try being one of them, yourself!) But the expenses of our Annual Meetings over and above the cost of the luncheons; the cost of printing and postage for the News Letter and other communications; other publications and research and copying of requested genealogical information must all come out of the \$3.00 a year dues paid from our members.

Dues for the 1979-80 memberships were payable last September. One hundred seventy-five members have already joined for the coming year— some of them as far ahead as 1982 or even further, but of those who belonged last year nearly half have not yet rejoined.

We cannot afford to continue to send the News Letter and notices of meetings to members who have failed for more than a year to pay dues. Some have been carried who had paid only up to 1978, but this is the last issue such members will receive unless dues are paid before next spring. Your membership card will indicate when your membership expires. Current cards read "Sept. 1979 - Sept. 1980." All dues should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary who will relay them to the Treasurer.

The News Letter subscription is included in the dues. Orders and payment for other Association publications should be sent to the Book Custodian, Robert F. Royce, 27 Hubert Street, West Haven, CT, who also relays the payments to the Treasurer.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION

A GENEALOGICAL REGISTER OF EDMUND RICE DESCENDANTS
(Published in 1970 by the Association. A continuation of Ward's "Rice Family" and the Supplement. \$25.00

THE RICE FAMILY by Andrew Henshaw Ward (1858)
(A genealogical history of descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice, Sudbury, (1638-1858) reprint \$20.00

SUPPLEMENT TO "THE RICE FAMILY", published by the Association in 1967, additions and corrections bringing the 1858 edition up-to-date. \$3.50

INDEX.....(Names in the Ward book which were not included in the Ward index.) \$1.25

MORE ABOUT THOSE RICES by Elsie Hawes Smith
(just a few left.) \$3.50

YOU ARE HEIR TO MILLIONS! by Margaret S. Rice
(A seven-page speech made at the 1971 Rice Reunion \$1.50

Additional News Letters, very limited supply each \$2.00

Checks, payable to the Edmund Rice Association, should be sent with orders to Robert F. Royce, Book Custodian, 27 Hubert Street, West Haven, CT. 06016

"HAND HEWN IN OLD VERMONT"

If your forefathers came from Vermont, (as many Rices did) you will want to read this book by Ruth Rasey Simpson, a member of our association. The book is hard cover and costs \$9.00. May be ordered from: The Red Barn Bookshop, Box 271, East Arlington, Vermont 05252

EDWIN RICE'S HORN

Edwin Rice's Civil War Letters, edited by Ted Perry, some of which have been given our readers in previous News Letters, end with the battle of Cedar Mountain, VA, in 1862.

In The Story of the Thirteenth Massachusetts Volunteers by Charles E. Davis, Jr., the band in which Edwin played is mentioned after Cedar Mountain.

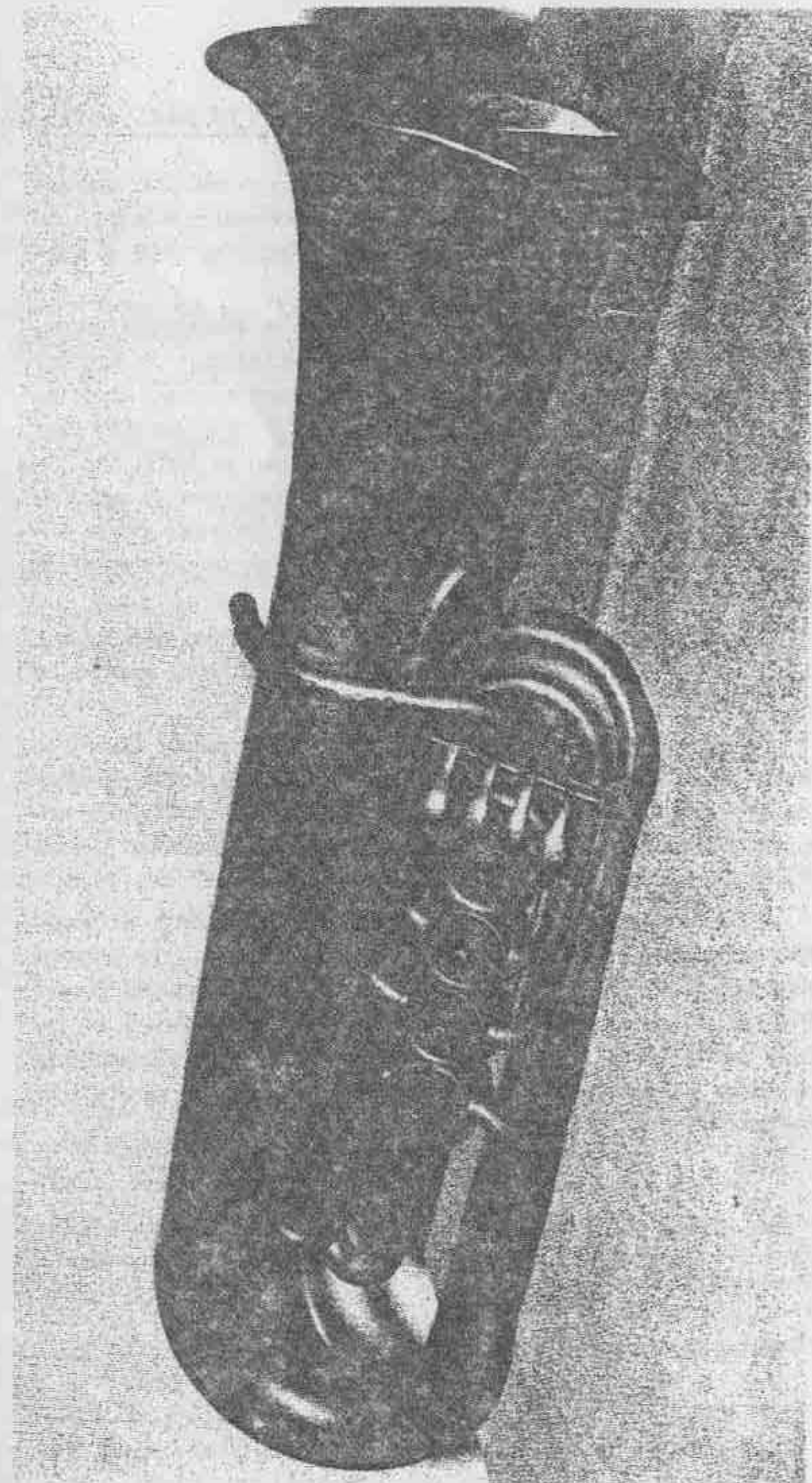
"Friday, August 29, an order had been issued for the muster-out of the band, but owing to the excitement of those busy days, no attention was paid of it. In the meantime they kept along with us, not knowing where else so go.

"Monday, September 1, Band mustered out. Something has already been said ...to show how much we enjoyed its presence. It was one of the best in the service and afforded us daily entertainment that was highly appreciated. Its departure left a vacancy that nothing could fill..... It not only discoursed good music but did it so skilfully as to receive the commendations of other regiments and officers who availed themselves of every opportunity to listen to its playing. Many a weary mile they helped out by their willingness to play, even when they must have been thoroughly fagged out themselves."

Edwin Rice's horn was presented to the Marlborough Historical Society by Mrs. Harris G. Field, his great-niece, a member of our Association. The photograph was obtained by Mrs. Dorothy Medill, President and Director, (1975) of the Marlborough Historical Society.

Edwin Rice died May 10, 1918, two years after his older sister, Viola, whose diary was edited and published by Helen Perry Smith a few years ago.

EDWIN RICE'S HORN WHICH WAS USED DURING HIS SERVICE IN THE CIVIL WAR
(photo by Steve Jusseaume, Marlborough)



OLD NEWSPAPER CLIPPING FROM BOSTON HERALD - 1913

"Far-reaching interest attaches to a pen and ink drawing by Pauline Attlee Long, (reproduced on front) which has for subject the Deacon Edmund Rice homestead, built in 1650 in Wayland, then part of Sudbury.

"Deacon Rice was a Pilgrim, born in Buckinghamshire, England, of Welch Stock, in 1594. He settled here in Sudbury in 1638, according to a tablet that has been erected near the site of the pictured house. The tablet further records that Deacon Rice was appointed to apportion land in 1639, and became a Deputy to the General Court of Massachusetts; a magistrate in 1641; and a selectman in 1644 and for some years following. He was one of the petitioners for incorporation of Marlborough, where he died in 1663.

"Genealogical records of the Rice Family have been traced back for 33 generations, and its history has been written by A. H. Ward.*

"..... Over 400 famous men and women are known to have been descended from the good Deacon, including Mary Baker Eddy, Clara Barton, Harriet Hosmer, Mary A. Rice Livermore, Henry Ward Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Samuel F. B. Morse.**

"Edmund Rice was prominent in the Settlement of early Massachusetts. He early owned land in and out of the town of Sudbury, some of which came by grant of the General Court. These, in part at least, formed the Old Rice Homestead, not far from the "Five Paths" in Wayland. This old home remained in the Rice Family for generations, being occupied by members of the family until within the last half century

* Later histories written by Chas. Elmer Rice and Elsie Hawes Smith, as well as the new Genealogical Register compiled by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Rice.

** Since 1913, the names of President Calvin Coolidge and Alexander Hamilton Rice could be added.

BACK TO THE FARM

Back to the dear old farm today, full many years we've been away. Back to the scenes of early life, back to the day when hope was rife.

The house remains as 'twas of yore. Its dwellers now have gone before. The feet once used to walk its floors have passed forever from its doors.

The fields are here which once were tilled by him whose voice is henceforth stilled, and flowere, too, we still may see where she we love was wont to be.

How guilty once we shirked their word and thought all their commands absurd: "Let Frank do this, I did the last", or, "Fred's done nothing some days past!"

If they were in the flesh today we'd vie to see who'd first obey. Slip to the barn, harness the horse, bring in the wood -- their wish endorse.

We'd rise to chores at early morn or hoe the quack from out the corn; pick up the stone beyond the lane; e'en pull the mustard from the grain.

Old Farm, from thee our strength was drawn to meet the world in varied form. Again that strength wilt thou renew as well known scenes pass in review.

At last, Old Farm, when flesh is dust, with Father, Mother, and the rest, in spirit then thy fields we'll roam. Thou evermore shalt be our home.

by Rev. Arthur Alanson Rice,
(Page 663 in The Rice Register)

The above was written after a visit to the Rice Homestead on Coffeen Street in Watertown, N. Y., the home of Rev. Luther Rice and his wife, Mary Skinner Rice. Here their nine sons and three daughters were born, and all but four who died young grew up on this farm.