August 8, 1913 Reunion of Moses A. Cartland Pupils

On the first Sunday in August one year ago a few of the old pupils, who attended school at Walnut Grove 50 years ago under Moses A. Cartland, met at Lee Hill, attended church in the morning, and then went over to the old school house to talk over old scenes, and relate many incidents of their school days there.

An agreement was then made to hold another meeting one year from that time, the first Sunday in August. Last winter a meeting was held in Boston at the office of B.F. Dame. A permanent organization was formed and officer elected. John T. Gibson, who succeeded Moses A. Cartland, was chosen president and B.F. Dame, secretary.

Early in the summer invitations were sent out to all those whose addresses could be learned. The task was a difficult one as 50 years had passed, and many were dead, while others were scattered in all parts of the country.

On last Sunday morning 18 of the old pupils, B.F. Dame, Hiram Kelsey, Stephen H. Davis, David A. Stevens, Irving G. Chesley, Charles S. Cartland, Carrie E. Buzzell, Alanson C. Haines, Howard M. Glidden, Beszie Cartland, Lizzie Davis Wiggin, Lydia Ann Buzzell Burnham, Loretta B. Langley, Katherine H. Davis, Jennie Cartland Tyler, Nellie G. Thompson, H. Scott Tuttle, and John L. Gibson, a former master, with as many more members of their families, responded to the call and attended services at Lee Hill church.

Another gathering was held in front of the old schoolhouse under the shade of the maple trees. A more enjoyable occasion was never known. The old men and old women were boys and girls once more, and could a passer-by have heard the shouts and peals of laughter as some one related an amusing incident that happened so many years ago, he would have thought that a class of boys and girls had been turned out for “recess.”

After a bountiful lunch, speech-making was in order, and the following responded as their names were called. John T. Gibson, president, David A. Stevens, Charles S. Cartland, Carrie E. Buzzell, Alanson C. Haines, G.B. Haley, Lizzie Davis Wiggin, Lydia Ann Buzzell Burnham, Katherine H. Davis, Rev. Frank Tyler. Beautiful and touching letters of regret were read from Henrietta C. Mathews of Philadelphia, Laura A. Norris of Hampton, N.H., and Francena J. Eaton of North Bend, Nebraska.
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B. F. Dame of Boston, upon being called, in a very eloquent manner spoke as follows:

"Mr. President and Schoolmates. Just across the field yonder stands a plain marble shaft. As I stood there a few years ago and read the simple inscription on it, a flood of recollections came over me. I would not for the moment think of him as being dead, for I could see him again in that familiar attitude of his, standing with outstretched arms speaking to his old pupils.

"Half a century has passed since we saw that remarkable figure, but the recollections of him are fresh in our memory to-day. The state of New Hampshire has produced many eminent men in all walks of life. Monuments have been erected to perpetuate the names of her gallant soldiers, honors have been bestowed her statesmen, but the memory of him who sleeps yonder will live in the hearts of his old pupils while life shall last.

"Of that happy group of boys and girls that gathered here in those days of long ago, a large number has passed on to the Great Unknown, and over their graves the rose and the lily have blossomed and faded many, many times. They are not forgotten and never can be. The friendships then and there begun were strong and lasting and will grow brighter and brighter as the years go by.

"It has been my lot for many years of my life to be engaged in school work. I have seen many schools, have had under my care many pupils, and had much to do with school affairs, but never have I seen pupils so loyal as the boys and girls who attended school at old Walnut Grove.

A bond of friendship seemed to bind them together in a most remarkable way. Time has not dimmed their love for one another, nor the years severed those ties of friendship.

"Let me then for a few brief moments indulge in some of the reminiscences of the past. It was our custom in those days to hold evening entertainments quite frequently, consisting of rhetoricals, such as declamations, dialogues, spelling schools, lectures, etc. On one of these occasions Moses stood

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Before us and read the following lines entitled 'Quaker Doggerel', reference being made to many of his pupils. Doubtless many of you recall that event.

"Such were the conditions in that happy family of boys and girls at Walnut Grove under the instruction of Moses A. Cartland. When he passed away there came upon the scene as his successor a young man fresh from college. The situation was indeed a difficult and a trying one, to succeed a man of the reputation of his predecessor was a task most men would shrink from, and as he has often told me since, 'Had I known the facts, as I afterward learned them, I should have hesitated a good deal before accepting the place.' But he did, and he made good also, and the name of John T. Gibson will be linked with that of Moses A. Cartland as long as one of the old pupils remains.

"Let us rejoice, then, that after half a century Mr. Gibson is with us to-day as young in spirit as he was when we first looked upon his young face.

"And now, dear old schoolmates, this occasion is indeed a joyous one. How remarkable after all these years that so many have lived, and so many are permitted to meet once more, to see the glad smile and receive the hearty handshake the same as in the days of yore. I bid you then a hearty welcome and a Godspeed as we travel on toward the sunset of life.”