

SIMSBURY

Genealogical and Historical Research Library

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The Simsbury Free Library

The Original Trustees: Part 2

Amos R. Eno appointed ten trustees in 1874 to manage the affairs of the Simsbury Free Library. The composition of the board remained the same for more than twenty-seven years, demonstrating the wisdom of Mr. Eno's selection and the dedication of the men he chose.

Rev. J. Logan Tomlinson, 1826-1906

The Reverend Johnson Logan Tomlinson was descended from Henry and Alice Tomlinson, who emigrated from Derby, Derbyshire, England, to Milford, Connecticut, in 1652. Rev. Tomlinson, a member of the seventh generation, was the son of Eliphalet and Polly (Logan) Tomlinson of New Preston, where his father was a marble dealer.¹ They were distant cousins of Gideon Tomlinson, who was governor of Connecticut (1827-1831) and a U.S. senator (1833-1837).²

Rev. Tomlinson was pastor of the Congregational Church in Chester, New Hampshire, during the Civil War years and he was remembered there for his memorial sermon on Lincoln after his assassination. In a history of that town Rev. Tomlinson is described as "a good sermonizer and a picturesque character withal. He was tall of stature, wore his hair long, and carried a carpet bag as he went from place to place. He was sometimes called a second Henry Ward Beecher. He exchanged pulpits occasionally with Dr. Wm. Jewett Tucker, later president of Dartmouth College, when Dr. Tucker was pastor of the Franklin St. Church in Manchester."³

While in Chester, Rev. Tomlinson married in 1869 the widow Hannah Maria (Pickett) Hazelton.⁴ The couple moved to Simsbury and he was installed as pastor of the Congregational Church in 1871. He served in that capacity until 1878, when ill health caused him to resign, but he continued to serve at weddings, funerals and other occasions.⁵ He performed the wedding ceremony when library trustee Rev. Charles P. Croft married Julia Mather and officiated at the funeral of John B. McLean's second wife, Ida Stillman McLean.⁶ He gained the admiration of the Eno family and when Lucy Jane Phelps Eno, wife of Amos R. Eno, died in 1882 in her home in Simsbury the *Hartford Courant* reported that her funeral service was conducted by Rev. Tomlinson "her old friend and former beloved pastor of the Congregational church."⁷

When Amos R. Eno named Rev. Tomlinson a trustee of the Simsbury Free Library in 1874, he was forty-eight and the oldest member of the board. However, he served more than thirty-two years until he died at the age of eighty. From 1876 he served continuously on the Book Committee, which selected and purchased books. According to the minutes of the board in 1889 he agreed "to catalogue books" and in 1899 he was appointed "to issue a new catalogue."

It was the practice during this era for libraries to publish a catalogue listing the books in their

collections. The first Simsbury Free Library catalogue mentioned in the board's minutes is one undertaken by Secretary John B. McLean in 1874, the year the library opened. He had three hundred copies printed. Although there is no mention in the minutes, he was probably the compiler of the 1880 catalogue now in the archives of the Simsbury Genealogical and Historical Research Library.⁸ The 1889 catalogue for which Rev. Tomlinson was responsible updated the book list just as the library moved from the top floor of the Hop Meadow School into its new building. Rev. Tomlinson also served with Ralph Hart Ensign as a committee to compile and publish a book to record and commemorate the 1890 dedication of the Simsbury Free Library building. The result was a small blue hardcover volume with illustrations.⁹

After Mrs. Tomlinson died in 1894, Rev. Tomlinson sold the house he had built for them, called an "attractive cottage" by one newspaper reporter.¹⁰ The 1900 U.S. census recorded that Rev. Tomlinson was then residing at the McLean Seminary and his obituary in 1906 stated that "he has lived part of the time in New Haven and part of the time in East Orange, where he died September 19."¹¹ The Simsbury Free Library trustees appointed Henry E. Ellsworth to fill his seat.

Alonso Grove Case, 1834-1902

Civil War veteran Alonso Grove Case was among the ten trustees of the Simsbury Free Library appointed by Amos R. Eno in 1874. He was forty when appointed and he served until he died at the age of sixty-seven. The article "The Sword of Alonzo Case" by Lois W. Calvert, which appeared in this newsletter in 1997, gave this account of his early life:

Alonzo Grove Case was born in the old Case homestead on Terry's Plain in June 1834. He attended the one room schoolhouse close to his home, and continued his education at the Connecticut Literary Institute, Suffield and Wilbraham Academies. At the age of 25, he married Julia Chafee of Simsbury and ultimately fathered nine children. He continued to farm until 1862 when he enlisted to fight in the Civil War, and was assigned to Company E, 16th Connecticut Volunteers.

Mustered in as a private, he was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant within a year, then to Second Lieutenant, and by the time he participated in the Battle of Plymouth (Virginia) in April 1864, he was a First Lieutenant. Although wounded in the side at Antietam (the same battle that claimed the life of his younger brother, Oliver), he recovered and took part in many other battles until the fateful one at Plymouth. Shot in the foot, he was taken prisoner and confined to the infamous Andersonville Prison for several months before being transferred to prisons in Savannah and Charleston.

Alonzo's prison life covered the span of almost a year, during which time he lost 45 pounds, and like many other incarcerated prisoners, suffered from hunger and lack of clothing. He made himself clothes from flour sacks and used pieces of cloth from an old overcoat for foot coverings. Discharged after the war, he suffered from asthma for the rest of his life.

Mrs. Calvert goes on to say that Alonzo Case served the Town of Simsbury as a selectman for two



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years and as tax collector, also for two years, and was elected to represent the town in the Connecticut Legislature in 1867. "He was also a deacon of the Congregational Church, a Mason and President of the Ex-Union Prisoners of War Association," she says. The sword that he lost when he was taken prisoner was returned to him in 1887 by the former Confederate officer Captain James A. Marrow, who had been in command of the Company H, 55th Regiment, North Carolina Troops, at the Battle of the Wilderness.¹²

Lt. Alonzo Grove Case was the seventh generation in America and a direct descendant of John Case who emigrated from Aylesham, England.¹³ John Case settled in Windsor before moving with his wife and children to the Weatogue section of the area called Massaco.¹⁴ In 1669 the General Court of the Colony of Connecticut appointed him Constable, which was "the first step in the organization and setting up of a civil government at Massaco."¹⁵ Historian Bruce C. Daniels states, "The constable, the second most important officer in these towns [after the selectmen], was the first town office created by the General Court in 1636 and was originally intended to deal with the Indians and other threats to the peace. The early military structure of the town was under his control..."¹⁶ John Case was also the delegate to the General Court, along with Joshua Holcombe, in May 1670 when the court incorporated the town and ordered that it be called "Simmsbury."¹⁷ John Case continued to serve his town in many capacities until he died on February 21, 1703/4.

Alonzo Grove Case's great-grandfather, Capt. Job Case, served in the French and Indian War and commanded a Simsbury militia company that saw action during the Revolutionary War.¹⁸ His grandfather, Capt. Ariel Case, served in the 18th Regiment of Militia.¹⁹ His father, Capt. Job Case, was a captain of the cavalry in the state militia.²⁰ So, Alonzo Grove and his brothers Ariel Job and Oliver Cromwell followed a long military tradition when they volunteered during the Civil War.²¹

Alonzo Case lived in the family home that still stands at 105 Terry's Plain Road, near the colonial-era militia training ground. The property came to him from his father, Capt. Job Case, and the house is believed to have been built about 1790 by his great-grandfather Capt. Job Case.²² A look at the Simsbury agricultural returns in 1860 and 1870 U. S. censuses reveals that Job Case and his son Alonzo farmed together on the property. The 1860 census credited the father with owning two cows, 700 pounds of butter and 8,000 pounds of tobacco, as well as somewhat less significant amounts of rye, Indian corn, oats, Irish potatoes, hay, and orchard products, plus a pig and \$80 worth of slaughtered animals. The son was credited with one horse, two working oxen, four other cattle, a pig and \$16 worth of slaughtered animals. He, too, had some Indian corn, oats and orchard products and his tobacco amounted to 5,500 pounds. So, broadleaf tobacco was the farm's primary cash crop.

Ten years later, the census lists the farm as belonging to both the father and the son, and it had increased in improved acreage from twenty to 102 acres and from five acres of woodlot to twenty-five. The value of the farm rose accordingly from \$3,000 to \$6,700. Tobacco on hand was only 3,800 and butter on hand was only 400 pounds, but the father and son duo had added four more cows, a second horse and nine sheep, with thirty pounds of wool counted. The other recorded products remained about the same.²³

Amos R. Eno may have chosen Alonzo Grove Case from among all the town's farmers and Civil War veterans to be a trustee for the Simsbury Free Library because of his education and demonstrated cultural interests. When the Simsbury Lyceum was organized in 1859, Alonzo Case served as its first president. Other Simsbury men who belonged to the lyceum, which continued for several winters, included Joseph R. Toy, who later died in the war at New Orleans; Rev. J. Simmons,

the minister of the Simsbury Methodist Episcopal Church at the time; William E. Simmons, then the teacher at the Weatogue school; Jeffrey O. Phelps, who later served as state senator in 1867; John Ellsworth, who became a judge in Alameda, California; James R. Merritt, later of San Francisco; Rev. Allen McLean, minister at the Congregational Church; and Lemuel Stoughton Ellsworth.²⁴

Alonzo G. Case's first assignment on the Simsbury Free Library's board in 1874 was "to procure a sign to be placed on the Library building."²⁵ In October 1875, he served as president pro tem in the absence of Horace Belden, then Lt. Case was elected to the position of president continuously from 1876 to 1884. After that he was elected secretary from 1885 until 1891. In October 1890 he was appointed, along with Horace Belden and William Whitehead, to a committee "with discerning power in regard to renting the upper part of the [new] Library building."²⁶

After more than twenty-seven years on the board of the Simsbury Free Library, Alonzo Grove Case died on May 5, 1902. He was the first of the original trustees to die and his son, Burton Grove Case (1872-1918) was appointed to fill his seat.²⁷

By Mary Jane Springman

Notes

1. Samuel Orcutt, *Henry Tomlinson and His Descendants in America...* (New Haven, Conn.: Price, Lee & Adkins, 1891), 135.
2. *Ibid.*, 145.
3. John Carroll Chase, *History of Chester, New Hampshire...* (Derry, N.H.: J.C. Chase, 1926), 10.
4. *Ibid.*, 333.
4. Lyman G. Potter, *A History of First Church of Christ at Massaco, Simsbury, Connecticut* (Simsbury, Conn.: First Church of Christ, 2002), 79.
6. *Hartford Daily Courant*, April 24, 1871, 2; February 18, 1885, 4.
7. *Hartford Courant*, November 21, 1882, 2.
8. *Catalogue of Simsbury Free Library, November 1, 1880* (Hartford: The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., Print., 1880). Pencil inscriptions in the forty-page papercover catalogue state the it belonged to W. J. Hoskins of Simsbury.
9. *Report of the Proceedings at the Dedication of the Simsbury Free Library, January 28, 1890* (Hartford, Conn.: Press of The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1893).
10. "Simsbury's Old Homes," *Hartford Courant*, August 10, 1894, 10. The Simsbury Land Records show that Rev. Tomlinson bought the half-acre lot on which he built his house from Dr. Lucius I. Barber on October 20, 1882 (vol. 50, 287). The lot was described as being "northwesterly from the dwelling house of Said Barber" and on the opposite side of the street. Barber lived at 930 Hopmeadow Street, where the Starbucks coffee shop is now.
11. Obituary of Rev. J. Logan Tomlinson, *Hartford Courant*, September 22, 1906, 17.
12. Lois W. Calvert, former managing director of The Simsbury Historical Society, based her account of the sword's return on letters to Case from Marrow and H. T. Harvey, now in the archives of the historical society. The sword, which was presented to Case by "a citizen of the Town of Simsbury" when he was promoted to lieutenant at Fredericksburg, is also in the historical society's collections. In addition, Mrs. Calvert drew material from *The Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford County* (Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co., 1901), 525-27.
13. Ruth Cost Duncan, comp., *John Case and His Descendants* [2nd ed.] (Simsbury: The Simsbury Free Library, 2000), 139-40.
14. Barber, 35.
15. *Ibid.*, 38-39.
16. Bruce C. Daniels, *The Connecticut Town: Growth and Development, 1635-1790* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1979), 70.
17. Barber, 40. He quotes *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776*, 15 vols. (Hartford: Brown & Parsons, 1850-1890), 2, 127.

**Jean Nudd to Give the Spring Talk on June 9
Please Help Us Choose the Topic**

Jean Nudd, Archivist for the National Archives and Records Administration in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, will return to our library on June 9 to speak on **one** of the following topics:

- Beginning Your Genealogical Research at the National Archives
- Using Federal Census Records
- Military Records at the National Archives
- Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor at the National Archives
- Using Pre-1850 Census to Find Family Relationships
- Using Military Pension Files to Locate Family Relationships
- Finding Family Migrations in Federal Records
- Using World War I Draft Records at the National Archives
- Using Canadian Border Crossing Records
- Internet Resources for Genealogists

If a topic particularly interests you, please let us know by **April 1**.

Call: 860.658.5382 Write: P.O. Box 484, Simsbury, CT 06070

E-mail: genhist93@hotmail.com

The most popular topic will be announced in the Spring newsletter and in the local media. Following her presentation, Ms. Nudd will answer questions about any genealogical matter.

SAVE THE DATE: June 9, 11:00 A.M. ★ FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

18. Duncan, 19; Barber, 308-09; *Simsbury Soldiers in the War of the Revolution* (Simsbury: Abigail Phelps Chapter, NSDAR, 1982), 93.

19. Duncan, 46.

20. *Ibid.*, 94.

21. Barber, 337.

22. Abigail Eno Ellsworth, comp., *A Record of the History of Some of the Old Houses of Simsbury* (Simsbury: Abigail Phelps Chapter, DAR, 1936), 71. Lucius I. Barber, *A Record and Documentary History of Simsbury* (Simsbury: The Abigail Phelps Chapter, DAR, 1931), 94.

23. *Eighth Census of the United States. Original records of the Assistant Marshals, Agriculture for the Year 1860 in Connecticut*, "Simsbury," 7-10, *Ninth Census...1870....*, "Simsbury, Weatogue," 7-8. Bound original documents in the archives of the Connecticut State Library, History and Genealogy Unit.

24. *Hartford Courant*, April 21, 1896, 10. The article said that Mrs. L. S. Ellsworth had the lyceum's record book in her possession at that time. Also, according to records kept by the Connecticut State Library (<http://www.cslib.org/conngares.asp>), Jeffrey O. Phelps was a Democrat in the Senate in 1867 and that year Alonzo G. Case served in the House as a Republican.

25. *Original Minute Book of Trustee's Meetings of Simsbury Free Library, 1874-1944* (photocopy), 17.

26. *Ibid.*, 39. No record of a rental appears in the minutes until October 1912, when the librarian was directed "to rent and give use of large room on second story to Historical Society," the Simsbury Historical Society having been incorporated in 1911.

27. *Original Minute Book*, 66.

Some Recent Acquisitions

- From Colonial Parish to Modern Suburb: A Brief Appreciation of West Hartford* by Nelson R. Burr
(donated by Robert McComb)
- The Goddard Book*, 2 vols., by John W. Harms and Pearl Goddard Harms (donated by William Harris)
- Kinship: It's All Relative* by Jackie Smith Arnold
- List of Inhabitants in 1779 York County, PA* by William L. Iscrupe (anonymous donation)
- The Holy Bible...In Two Volumes*, vol. 1, pub. by E. H. Butler & Co., 1851 (donated by Tom Killeen)
- The Holy Bible* pub. by The American Bible Society, 1867 (donated by Tom Killeen)
- A Primer of Forestry: Part II Practical Forestry* by Gifford Pinchot (donated by Robert B. McComb)
- The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut* [Compact Disk] by Jacquelyn Ladd Ricker (donated by Celia Ann Roberts)
- Virginia Genealogies and County Records* by Annie Walker Burns (anonymous donation)

Family Records From a Bible Donated by Tom Killeen

The *Holy Bible* published by E. H. Butler & Company in 1851 has the inscription on a flyleaf "George Mills book." The records below are written in that volume.

Marriages

- Aug ³⁰ 1842 George Mills to Emily E. Miller
- Fannie E. Mills & Clayton P. Holcomb Married Apr 13th 1864
- Washburn G. Mills & C. C. Curtis Married Dec 6th 1866.
- Frank M. Mills & Ella Mallery June 24th 1875.
- Fannie E. Holcomb and Selden Minor June 29th 1876.
- Charles K. Mills and Louise A. Clark Sept 27th 1882.
- Frederick M. Mills and Mary Higley Dec 25th 1883
- William H. Mills and Kate A. Riddiford Jan 18th 1888

Births

- George Mills Born June 9 1817
- Emily E. Miller Born Jan 4 1819
- Frances E. Mills Born Oct 1 1843
- Washburn G. Mills Born Nov 18 1845
- Frank M. Mills Born July 24 1848
- Charles K. Mills Born Sept 12 1851 Died June 1 1925
- Lillian E. Mills Born Dec 23 1859
- Willie H. Mills Born March 11 1857.
- Fredie M. Mills Born Oct 2nd 1859
- Lillie M. Holcomb born Sept 18th 1865
- Josie Emily Mills Born August 28th 1876.

- Mills Curtis Lane Born Dec 1st 1908
- William Charles Lane Born July 28 - 1911

Deaths

- George Mills died January 25th 1890 at 10 PM
- Lillian E. Mills died May 29 1857
- Clayton P. Holcomb Died February 21, 1870.
- Lillie M. Holcomb Died Feb 23rd 1883
- William H. Mills Dec 1918
- Charles K. Mills June 1st 1925
- Mills Curtis Lane Died Feb 21, 1965 at 4 p.m.
- Emily Frances Mills born Nov 21st 1897
Died April 8th 1936 at 7: P.M.
- Emily E. Mills Died November 27, 1880.
At 8 O'clock AM
- Frederick M. Mills Died Oct 23 1886 at 8 O'clock AM
- Mrs. Katie Riddiford Mills Died June 23rd 1890
Aged 86 Years
- Frank M. Mills Died March 29th 1910.
- Washburn G. Mills August 3rd 1915
- Eugenia E. Curtis Feb. 24 - 1914
- Josie Emily Mills Lane Died July 29th - 1947
- Robert Lane died July 1st 1955

The family records written in the American Bible Society volume published in 1867 will appear in the Spring issue of the newsletter. Additional family names found in that Bible include Hamlin, Horton, Root, and Wright. We are indebted to Mr. Killeen for this invaluable information.

In Memory of Irene Welden

Simsbury lost one of its most valued citizens on December 29, 2006, when Alice Irene Welden died at the age of 103. The daughter of Reuben William and Alice Louise (Bidwell) Welden, she was born in Simsbury on December 21, 1903. Her family had been part of the town since 1876. Her father, who was known as "Will," ran a sporting goods store on Hopmeadow Street and her uncle, Samuel T. Welden, ran the Welden Hardware Store on Station Street. He was also a tobacco grower and a florist with five greenhouses. Her mother, who was from Arlington, Pennsylvania, was a Bidwell from the Bidwell family that was among the founders of Hartford. Her brother and his wife were the late William and Lillian Welden.

Miss Welden graduated from Simsbury High School in the class of 1926 and attended Northfield Academy. For almost forty years she was employed by the original Simsbury Bank & Trust, where she was the head of the savings department.

She was a lifelong member of the Simsbury United Methodist Church. Her baptism took place in the Simsbury Casino, the old community center formerly on the site of the Eno Memorial Hall, because the present church was under construction. She served as the church organist for seven and a half years and substituted on many occasions. She also sang in the choir and was a member of the Rebekah Circle.

Miss Welden was a past Regent of the Abigail Phelps Chapter, DAR, a pianist for the Simsbury Grange and a member of the A.A.R.P. Chapter 790, the Hartford Audubon Society, Hester Chapter Order of the Eastern Star #71 and this library. In 1997 Miss Welden greatly aided the library by donating almost four hundred books from her genealogical collection. We were honored to know her and will miss her.

SGHRL Updates

The library has added three computers for use by patrons thanks to the generosity of the Aetna Life and Casualty Company of Hartford. The Board of Trustees, assisted by Library Director Allison Krug, applied for the computers several months ago. Charles Housner, President of CEH Consulting, Inc., has volunteered to install the Microsoft software donated by Attorney Jerry Devine of the Microsoft Corporate Legal Department. They will be up and running by the time you receive this newsletter. Do come in and use them to search Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest and numerous other genealogical sites. Remember also that we have wireless Internet access for your own computer.

SGHRL's Web site is under development and will be available soon. You will be able to access it at <http://www.sghrl.org>. Ms. Krug and Mr. Housner have been working on it under the supervision of Chairman Jim Flynn and other members of the Board of Trustees.

Peg Donohue, our past chairman, Margaret Lindauer, Dottie Cathles and Joyce Cahill came to help prepare the Fall newsletters for mailing. Many thanks to them all!

The late Mary Jane Guerry, a past trustee, her daughter Linda Dotson, also a past trustee, and Mrs. Dotson's daughter Melissa McKeen, a present trustee, are all direct descendants of original trustee Alonzo Grove Case. He is featured in this issue of the newsletter.

New England CONNECTIONS 2007
26-29 April
Hartford, Connecticut

This exciting event for genealogists will be held at the Hartford Convention Center. Many well-known, well-versed speakers are scheduled to address a multitude of genealogical topics. For more information and to register, please go to the conference Web site (<http://www.nergc.org>) or come into SGHRL to get a brochure.



The series **The Simsbury Free Library: The Original Trustees** began in the Fall 2006 issue of the newsletter, which had brief biographies of Horace Belden and Rev. Charles Pitman Croft. The lives of Rev. J. Logan Tomlinson and Alonzo Grove Case are featured in this issue. Brief biographies of Aaron Eno, George C. Eno, Amos F. Eno, Ralph H. Ensign, John B. McLean and William H. Whitehead will follow.

FIRST CLASS

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Allison B. Krug, Library Director
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