

History of the Hebron Academy by Ron Collins

The Hebron Academy was built as a privately owned “college” during the period from Autumn of 1838 until the late Spring of 1839. The largest investors were Leonard Tenney from Groton, and Hiram Orcutt of Acworth. This was at age 24, Hiram Orcutt’s first try at running a school of higher learning. Later he would go on and become one of the leading educators in the United States (See notes below). The first term of Hebron Academy commenced in the fall of 1839. At that time the trustees did not expect to establish a year round school; they hoped to be able to sustain it two ten week terms in the year, but the patronage received was so good that they kept it open for three terms per year instead of two. Instruction was given in Latin, Greek and French languages and in all English branches studied in similar institutions. The original instructors were the investors Leonard Tenney, A.B., principal and Hiram Orcutt, associate principal; the executive committee was Jonathan K. Pike, David Hazelton, John C. Hammond, all three of which were from Hebron and may also have been investors. The tuition was \$3.00 per term for English branches and an additional \$1.00 was charged for Latin, Greek and French. There were 89 pupils enrolled for the year 1840 giving the Academy a yearly revenue of \$935. The Academy had no dormitories, so all students were either locals or they had to find local boarding. Boarding with families near the academy ranged from \$1.17 to \$1.42 per week, and included room, board, wood, lights, and washing. There were some furnished rooms available for those wishing to board themselves at a moderate charge. The students who availed themselves of the opportunity the Academy offered for the few years it was in open came from the near-by towns of Dorchester, Groton, Rumney, Plymouth, Bridgewater, Bristol, and Alexandria.

A quote from the 1840 catalogue reads: *"It is considered that all those desiring to connect themselves with the school, should enter at the commencement of the term, both on their own account, and on account of the classes which they may wish to enter. The course of instruction is designed, effectually, to lead the pupils by self application, to correct habits of thought and reasoning, and to secure to them the development and cultivation of the moral as well as the intellectual powers."*

Hebron Academy was very successful for a few years and received generous patronage. As stated earlier there was no boarding house connected with the school; the students were obliged to board with private families or secure rooms and board themselves, which proved too much for a small farming community. The resident’s houses were not adequate to accommodate so great a number, as the families were so much larger then than they are today. As a result the Academy closed after just eight years. The Academy's door was closed in 1847. The Academy bell was removed from its scholastic belfry and placed in the church belfry, where it has hung until the church burned in 1945.

The Academy building stood unoccupied for a number of years and was then purchased by the Town of Hebron as school district No. 5.

NOTES ON HIRAM ORCUTT

Hiram Orcutt (February 3, 1815-April 17, 1899) born in Acworth, NH, was a noted American Educator. He wrote The parents' manual: or, Home and school training. Published by Thompson, Brown, & co, Boston, c1874. After the Hebron Academy closed Orcutt moved to Thetford, Vermont where he was principle of the Thetford Academy from 1842 until 1855. In 1850, Hiram Orcutt, writing in the *Vermont Chronicle*, called for the formation of a State

Teachers' Association. On October 16, 1850, teachers and friends of education met in Montpelier to organize a State Association of Teachers and "to discuss and adopt such Resolutions as express their views upon the subject of Education in Vermont."

Descendants of John Snell Orcutt

Generation No. 1

1. JOHN SNELL¹ ORCUTT was born 20 Aug 1758 in Bridgewater, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA, and died 1841. He married HANNAH CURRIER.

Child of JOHN ORCUTT and HANNAH CURRIER is:

2. i. **HIRAM² ORCUTT**, b. 03 Feb 1815, Acworth, Sullivan, New Hampshire, USA; d. 17 Apr 1899.

Generation No. 2

2. **HIRAM² ORCUTT** (*JOHN SNELL¹*) was born 03 Feb 1815 in Acworth, Sullivan, New Hampshire, USA, and died 17 Apr 1899. He married (1) ELLEN L DANA 08 Apr 1865. He married (2) SARAH AMES CUMMINS 15 Aug 1842. She was born 17 Nov 1817 in Massachusetts, USA, and died 22 Nov 1863.

Children of HIRAM ORCUTT and ELLEN DANA are:

- i. WILLIAM DANA³ ORCUTT, b. 1870.
- ii. LAURA AMES ORCUTT.
- iii. HELLEN WALLACE ORCUTT.

Children of HIRAM ORCUTT and SARAH CUMMINS are:

- iv. MARY FRANCES³ ORCUTT, b. 04 Jan 1851, Vermont, USA.
- v. JOHN FRANK ORCUTT, b. 22 Dec 1848, Thetford, Vermont, USA.

Sources on Hiram Orcutt:

1. Allibone's Critical Dictionary of English Literature: A Supplement. British and American authors. Two volumes. By John Foster Kirk. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1891. (Alli SUP)
2. Biographical Dictionary of American Educators. Three volumes. Edited by John F. Ohles. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1978. (BiDAmEd)
3. A Cyclopaedia of Education. Five volumes. Edited by Paul Monroe. New York: Macmillan Co., 1911. (CyEd)
4. Dictionary of American Biography. Volumes 1-20. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928-1936. (DcAmB)
5. A Dictionary of North American Authors Deceased before 1950. Compiled by W. Stewart Wallace. Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1951. (DcNAA)
6. The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography. Volume 7. New York: James T. White & Co., 1892. Use the Index to locate biographies. (NatCAB 7)
7. Who Was Who in America. A component volume of Who's Who in American History. Historical Volume, 1607-1896. Revised Edition. Chicago: Marquis Who's Who, 1967. (WhAm HS)

NOTES ON LEONARD TENNEY

Quote from The Tenney Family or The Descendants Of Thomas Tenney Of Rowley, Massachusetts, 1638-1904, Revised with Partial Records of Prof. Jonathan Tenney, by M. J. TENNEY, Concord, N.H., The Rumford Press, 1904

“Rev. Leonard Tenney, born in Groton, N. H., 5 Aug., 1814, son of Dea. Benjamin and Betsey (Taylor); married 26 June, 1845, Malvina Baker, who was born in Lebanon, N. H., 3 Nov., 1819, daughter of Abel and Lydia. She died at Magnolia, Mass., 31 July, 1903. He attended Kimball Union Academy in 1834 and 1835, entered Dartmouth in 1836, and graduated in 1840; taught at Lyme and Hebron, N.H.; entered Andover Theological Seminary in 1842, and graduated in 1844. His first pastorate was at Jaffrey, N.H., 1844 to 1857; was called to Thetford, Vt., in 1857, where he remained until 1867, and had a pastorate of thirteen years in Barre, Vt., residing there, and retiring from the ministry in 1881. He was for three years manager of the Vermont Bible Society. He was for a period the principal of a young ladies' seminary in Gorham, Me., also school commissioner in Chester county, 1855 to 1857. Residence, Waterbury, Vt., where they celebrated their golden wedding. Among the many guests was Mrs. Martha N. Woodward of Burlington, Vt., who was present at their marriage. He died at Manchester, Mass., 5 July, 1903. Children :

3843 Alice Lydia, b. 22 Nov., 1846; a fine pianist; graduated at Tilden Seminary; unmarried; res. Boston, Mass.

3844 William, b. 17 June, 1849; m. twice; has two sons and two daughters; res. Whetcombe, Wash.

8845 *Leonard Baker, b. 12 Sept., 1854.

3846 *Benjamin, b. 6 Oct, 1868.”

Descendants of Benjamin Tenney

Generation No. 1

1. BENJAMIN¹ TENNEY was born 23 Aug 1781 in Temple, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, USA, and died 12 Sep 1871 in Groton, Grafton, New Hampshire, USA. He married BETSEY TAYLOR. She was born 28 Jan 1782 in Hollis, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, USA, and died 03 Oct 1852 in Groton, Grafton, New Hampshire, USA.

Child of BENJAMIN TENNEY and BETSEY TAYLOR is:

2. i. LEONARD² TENNEY, b. 05 Aug 1814, Groton, New Hampshire, USA; d. 07 Jul 1903, Manchester, New Hampshire, USA.

Generation No. 2

2. LEONARD² TENNEY (*BENJAMIN*¹) was born 05 Aug 1814 in Groton, New Hampshire, USA, and died 07 Jul 1903 in Manchester, New Hampshire, USA. He married MALVINA BAKER 26 Jun 1845 in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, USA. She was born 03 Nov 1819 in Lebanon, New Hampshire, USA, and died 31 Jul 1903 in Magnolia, Massachusetts, USA.

Children of LEONARD TENNEY and MALVINA BAKER are:

- i. ALICE LYDIA³ TENNEY, b. 22 Nov 1846.
- ii. WILLIAM TENNEY, b. 17 Jun 1849.
- iii. LEONARD BAKER TENNEY, b. 12 Sep 1854.
- iv. BENJAMIN TENNEY, b. 06 Oct 1863, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; d. 1928.