

Addison's Gilbert's Generosity Made Our Hospital Possible

Addison Gilbert, the man whose legacy of \$100,000 led to the building of the Addison Gilbert hospital, was one of Gloucester's leading citizens and public benefactors in the 19th century. He died July 2, 1888, at the age of 79 years, after filling many civic and business positions of responsibility.

Born in Gloucester, November 23, 1808, he was a son of Samuel Gilbert, a merchant who carried on a grocery store and fishing business, and Sally Woodbury Gilbert. After clerking in a Boston store as a youth, Addison Gilbert engaged in business with his father. For a number of years in later life he was connected with the American Net and Twine company of Boston.

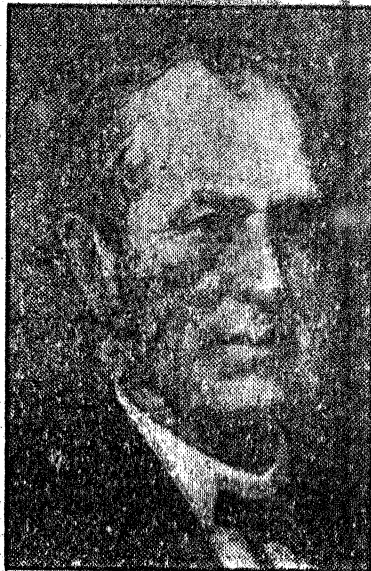
He served as selectman and assessor of the town, on the school committee, as representative to the General Court, as moderator of 44 of 54 regular town meetings during his lifetime, and as a member of the building committees of three town houses, one now the Forbes school, one on Dale avenue that was destroyed by fire, and the present City hall. He was president of the City National Bank and the Cape Ann Savings Bank.

At the time of his death he was one of the wealthiest residents of Gloucester. In addition to \$100,000 for the establishment of a hospital, he left \$75,000 for an old people's home, and some \$28,000 more for charitable and community purposes.

According to John K. Dustin Jr., in his first report as secretary of the board of trustees of the hospital, Addison Gilbert was "successful in business; retired comparatively early; lived a plain, unostentatious life, participating in business affairs connected with his investments; held in esteem by his fellow citizens and honored by selection to many offices of trust, where he showed marked ability and conscientious and economical administration of all affairs entrusted to his care."

His hospital bequest was for the purpose, according to his will:

"Of establishing in the city of Gloucester a free hospital, to be built



ADDISON GILBERT

of brick, with grounds properly embellished, where may be admitted as patients such citizens and inhabitants of the city (and in cases of emergency such others as the trustees may see fit) as may need medical or surgical aid and treatment. To provide gratuitously such aid and treatment for the indigent, and to receive in aid of maintaining said hospital such compensation as may be paid by patients who are able to make compensation."

In accordance with a preference expressed in the will, the trustees organized a corporation under Chapter 115 of the public statutes to carry into effect this legacy. The board of trustees organized with Charles H. Pew as president, Sylvester Cunningham vice president, Capt. Sylvanus Smith, treasurer, John K. Dustin, Jr., secretary, Hon. Allan Rogers, John E. Somes, Esq., and Dr. Isaac Adams.

Addison Gilbert

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