

# THE HARTWELLS OF AMERICA

(An Association)

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Littleton, Massachusetts

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*Dear Cousins:*

The tenth annual meeting of the Hartwells of America will be held on June 28th, 1947 (the last Saturday in June) on the grounds of the Unitarian Church of Bedford, Mass. More details later.

There has been a gratifying build up in attendance for the past two or three years, and last year about seventy-five were present. That meeting was unique in one respect: more cousins came from far distant places than ever before—from Mississippi, Missouri, South Dakota, California as well as from nearer localities—and the resulting get-together was marred only by the brevity of the meeting. There has been a feeling for some time that for all of us, and particularly for those who come from afar, the gathering at noon, the lunch soon after, followed immediately by the business meeting, and then dismissal, gave us very little opportunity to visit and become acquainted. And so this year it is proposed that we meet at the Church in Bedford at 9:00 or 9:30 in the morning, have two or three hours in which to exchange ideas and experiences, partake of a leisurely lunch at the near-by Domine Manse, call the business meeting at about two o'clock or two-thirty, and break up at any time before five. Six or eight hours a year doesn't seem too much time to devote to family fellowship and affairs, and we will try it out this June.

Among several items of business, there will be three of outstanding importance. One is the question of a change in the date of the meeting. This was referred to a Committee which should be ready to submit a report so that a vote may be taken at the meeting this year. Another is a question of an assistant, or understudy, or successor to the Corresponding Secretary. You will notice that he has shifted his place of residence. He has also been retired from his job, and is looking for new worlds to conquer. It is quite likely that Little Rock is the answer. In that event, it would be difficult for him to attend meetings, and his new work might be of such a nature as to prohibit much genealogical activity. So, if the organization is to continue, some one must be found to take over, to a large and growing extent, the duties of corresponding secretary and genealogist. This is an important matter, and should merit considerable thought and discussion. The third item relates to the advisability of going to the expense of hiring a trained genealogist to track down a few knotty problems that are holding up the compilation of the proposed genealogy. Your Corresponding Secretary has neither the time, means, nor the ability to do this. You will hear the Treasurer's report at the meeting and then should discuss the idea of assessing all the members (who will stand for it!) enough to make such a project possible. The book cannot be completed until this is done.

The past year has been a lean one, genealogically speaking. Your Corresponding Secretary is leaving Waltham, and the upset and work of breaking off old ties, and trying to form new ones have not been conducive to much research or correspondence. A few dozen letters have been sent out and some replies received. An encouraging number of former correspondents have sent in up-to-date data in response to the call of the new Directory, but most of it was too late for insertion.

You will notice that the form of the pink slips has been slightly changed. Checks are to be made payable to the Hartwells of America, and mailed to the Treasurer. Please do not send dues to the Corresponding Secretary, but, be sure to pay your dues.

Contributions to our publishing fund are most welcome. It now totals \$382.00, less than one-tenth of the amount necessary to publish the book. This fund should be used only for eventual publication, not for research.

Mrs. Webster's little booklet on the Hartwell House and the Coat of Arms is out of print. If there is still a demand for it, possibly our good cousin, Frank E. Hartwell will do a repeat performance. We all appreciate the excellent work in the first lot which is just exhausted. There are also no more Coats of Arms available.

The roster of men and women in the Armed Services of World War II has grown but little during the past year. There are less than fifty names on the list, and that must represent only a fraction of the entire number. Those with the surname of Hartwell can eventually be dug out of the government records, but the sons and daughters of Hartwell women cannot be found in that way, and many of them will have to be omitted from the record unless they are sent to the Corresponding Secretary.

There will be no further notice of the meeting in June. Address all questions concerning the meeting to our Treasurer. Come to historic Bedford, the home town of a great many earlier Hartwells, prepared to enjoy an interesting and profitable day with some very likable cousins.

Cordially yours,

JOHN F. HARTWELL, *Corresponding Secretary*

118 So. Cross St., Little Rock, Ark.

April 24, 1947

Tenth Annual Meeting - Hartwell's of America - June 28th, 1947

The tenth annual meeting of the Hartwells of America was held on Sat. June 28th. 1947 in Bedford, Mass at the First Parish Church.

Typical of the weather that plays a role always at our meetings the day was very hot, possibly because of this, the attendance was not as large, but what the group lacked in numbers, they made up for in friendliness. Those attending felt the effort of making the trip well worth-while.

The Hartwell clan of Bedford proved to be very genial hosts, and their hospitality made the day a very pleasant one.

A delicious luncheon was served at the Demine Manse after which the group adjourned to the First Parish Church for the business meeting and social part of the program.

Pres. Richard L. Hartwell of Littleton, Mass . presided at the business meeting.

Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and accepted. A report and letter from John F. Hartwell, our very capable corresponding secretary, was read and accepted. John is now making his home in Little Rock, Arkansas, and was unable to be present. He was greatly missed, but each one knowing John felt he was with us in spirit, if not in person. We are greatly indebted to John F. for his zeal and interest in the association, and those of us who have been in attendance at these meetings, know how very much he has done to keep this association, an active one. Because he is no longer living in this area, John F. suggested that others be appointed to help out with the many tasks he has hitherto undertaken. Ethel M. Hartwell of Lexington agreed to do what she could, and it was suggested that there might be others in other sections available, and willing to help.

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Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Hartwell of Hatley, Que., travelled the greatest distance to be present at this meeting. Prizes were awarded to the eldest and the youngest member present.

Following the business meeting, the group gathered in the auditorium of the church for the "dessert part" of the program.

The Paul Revere Guild of Bell Ringers, a group of young women of Bedford, Mass of which Mrs. Alden Webber is a member, presented several selections. The audience was most appreciative of the very fine concert of both classical and old favorites presented. The group brought much pleasure to the meeting and we are greatly indebted to them for their willingness in favoring us with their art.

An interesting account of the Hartwells of Bedford, Mass. was presented by Mr. Alfred Hartwell of Bedford. Facts presented, showed that the Hartwells of Bedford certainly had a powerful hand in the history of Bedford and New England.

The church proved to be an delightful place for our meeting, the Bedford Hartwells, hospitable hosts, and the Domine Manse, a picturesque spot for the needs of the inner man. And though we missed many of the familiar faces, (and we hope they will join us in June 1948) we were happy to welcome new "cousins" of the clan.

The meeting adjourned about 4:30, with the hope of all being together in 1948, God willing.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lillian E. Hartwell*  
Recording Secretary.