

At the entrance of the bridal bower were evergreen trees, and a bird in its nest was seen there. The wedding cake made by Miss Mattie Blodgett was a fine creation of high culinary art. Its rich decorations of 10 five dollar gold pieces were the gift of the children. The identical cake box used at the wedding in 1854 had been preserved, and its cover held 50 small candles burning with a golden glow. There was also a 12-foot candlemade more than fifty years ago by the bride's father, placed in a candlestick over 50 years old.

Ethan Blodgett of Fitzwilliam and Mary Mayhew Manchester of New Bedford were married in that city on the evening of March 23, 1854 by the Rev. Moses Howe. Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett are now 70 years old. He is six months the elder. Soon after marriage they removed to Hopkinstown, Ia., but returned to Fitzwilliam in 1858. Mr. Blodgett enlisted in July, 1861, in Company A, Twenty-first Massachusetts regiment, and in the battle of Roanoke Island, in Gen. Reno's command, was the first to place the flag on the parapet of the fort that was captured. He was severely injured at that time and honorably discharged March 12, 1862. In 1865 he bought a quarry at Fitzwilliam and maintained a successful business for about 25 years, retiring from active business in 1895. Since that time, owing to failing health and increasing age, he has been unable to do anything and has been confined to the house the past two years. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett, all of whom are living except a daughter, Minnie, who died December 13, 1870.

The younger relatives and friends contributed a program of delightful entertainment, during the evening consisting of instrumental selections by Miss Exilia Plante; vocal selections, Miss Florence Stone; recitations, Miss Lucy Fairbanks; musical numbers by E. L. Hale, Mrs. T. M. Blodgett, Leon White, N. B. Hayden and Thomas Blodgett.

Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Blodgett greatly enjoyed the occasion. They both wore their wedding garments of 50 years ago. Their youthful faces in the long ago, bright and handsome the passing years of time borne, strengthened and dignified, leaving the impress of noble and worthy living.

The gifts were many and valuable. Among them are the following: Fifty dollars in gold, Thomas and William Manchester, brothers of the bride from Washington, D.C., and Fort Worth, Texas; fifty dollars in gold, sons and daughters; gold dollar, 1851, nieces; ten dollars in gold, Deacon J. K. Whipple and family; five dollars in gold, Charles Blodgett (Ethan's brother), Kimball, South Dakota; other gifts of money from Miss Elizabeth Lawrance, Boston; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carpenter, Chicopee; Mr. and Mrs. Lester Flagg, Lynn; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Chase, Worcester; Miss Charlotte Bigelow, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Byam, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Putney, Fitzwilliam; also a sum of money from the residents of the town; banquet lamp, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Hale, Winchendon; pillow, Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Sykes, and a decorated calendar, Rollins Sykes, Dorset, Vt.; dessert spoon, the Misses Wheeler, Troy; night lamp, (by request) the late Deacon Timothy Blodgett; gold tea spoons, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hale and the Misses Susie, Mattie and Grace Blodgett; water set, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Blodgett, Llano, Texas; spoon, Mrs. Maria Cloney, New Britain, Conn., and Miss Louisa Bowman; photograph, T. W. Manchester; photo -- house and family of W. Y. Manchester, Fort Worth, Texas; table linen, Mrs. Phebe Coolidge and Mrs. Jennie Blodgett; table mat, Mrs. Martha Whittemore; bronze tablet, Miss Harriet Carter and Wallace C. Carter, Winchester; violets and golden basket, Miss Mattie Blodgett; daffodils, Mrs. M. S. Whittemore, Miss Bertha Whittemore and Henry Whittemore, Winchendon; roses, children and grandchildren.

The only relative present who was also at the wedding 50 years ago, is the brother of the bride, T. W. Manchester, Washington, D.C. The guest book showed a registration of 67 visitory during the day and evening.

Relatives present from out of town were, T. M. Manchester in the government employ at Washington, D.C., Mrs. Maria Cloney, New Britain, Conn., 81 years old, sister of the groom, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hale, Winchendon; Mrs. Thomas Mahon, Marlboro; Mrs. Martha Whittemore and Miss Bertha Whittemore, Winchendon.

In addition to the seven living children, Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett have seven grandchildren. The gifts of money aggregated about \$200." Editor's note: This is the first time I have heard that Ethan was severely injured during the Civil War. From his discharge papers and his personal notes, family members thought that he acquired an upper respiratory disease that was never cured and left him disabled.

In the same newspaper was the following: " Card of Thanks ---- Fitzwilliam, N. H. -- March 24, 1904

Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Blodgett desire to express sincere thanks and full appreciation of the calls from many friends, the beautiful presents, also gifts of money, and the many kindly letters of congratulations from relatives and acquaintances, and for all the courtesies extended on the occasion of the anniversary of their golden wedding, Wednesday, March 23, 1904.

Children of ETHAN BLODGETT and MARY MANCHESTER are:

28. i. WILLIAM ETHAN<sup>12</sup> BLODGETT, b. 27-March-1855, Fitzwilliam, Cheshire County, New Hampshire; d. 16-May-1943.
- ii. MARY MARTHA BLODGETT, b. 25-December-1856, Hopkington, Iowa; d. 23-October-1927.