

Franklin P. Rice (1852-1919)

Franklin P. Rice (1852-1919) was a very important figure in the transcription and publication of documents pertaining to historic public records, such as births, marriages, and deaths, the actions and records of the early town, and others. He was the author of *The Worcester of Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-Eight: Fifty Years a City: A Graphic Representation of its Institutions, Industries, and Leaders*, F.S. Blanchard & Company, 1899.



Rice is seated second from the left. Others, from left to right, are Samuel Staples, Richard O'Flynn, and John G. Smith.

Charles Nutt, History of Worcester and its People, vol. 3, p. 104:

FRANKLIN PIERCE RICE, Author, Editor, Publisher, was born in Marlborough, July 29, 1852. His education was received mainly under private instruction. He took a partial medical course in 1873-76. His life has been devoted, however, to the compiling, editing and publishing of records, histories, biographies and genealogies. He has published more than 150 books. He was a pioneer in putting public records into print, and as trustee of the systematic history fund he has been a great benefactor of the city and county. He edited and published nine volumes of the early records of the town of Worcester, and forty volumes of the vital records of the towns of Worcester county and vicinity. He wrote the "Reminiscences of Rev. George Allen" and the "Life of Eli Thayer." Mr. Rice is a self-taught printer, a master of the art, and has set the type and printed many of his works.

Mr. Rice was one of the founders of the Worcester Society of Antiquity, and is a life member of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, the American Antiquarian Society, and of the Bunker Hill Monument Association, and is a member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, and of the Worcester Natural History Society, of which he was a director from 1894 to 1909. In recent years he has devoted much time to the work of the American Antiquarian Society, being a member of the library and publication committees. He resides at No. 12 Berwick street, and has a summer home at Meredith, New Hampshire.

Mr. Rice is a descendant of Edmund Rice, the pioneer. (See Early Settlers). His line of ancestry is: Franklin Pierce 8, Minot 7, Abel 6, Jabez 5, Jabez 4, Caleb 3, Joseph 2, Edmund 1. He is also directly descended from Skelton (1629), Felton (1633) and Hunt (1635) emigrants.

(obituary notice next page)

Franklin P. Rice

Evening Gazette, Jan-05-1919

FRANKLIN P. RICE, ANTIQUARIAN, DIES

Franklin P. Rice, antiquarian and author, died this morning at his residence, 12 Berwick street, after a brief illness, aged 67 years. He was never married, and always made his home with his mother, Mrs Mary P. (Fulton) Rice, who survives him. The funeral will be from the funeral parlors of the F. A. Caswell Co., at 10 o'clock, Tuesday morning.

Mr. Rice was born in Marlboro in 1852. His life's work has been along antiquarian lines, and he won a widespread reputation as a profound and conscientious student of history and genealogy. He was also well known as an author and publisher; he was the author of more than 150 histories, biographies and other genealogical works, among the best known being "Reminiscences of Rev. George Allen," and his "Life of Eli Thayer."

He was the founder of the Worcester Society of Antiquity, to which important institution he rendered valuable service throughout his life. He was a member of the American Antiquarian Society, the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Bunker Hill Monument Association, and was a director of the Worcester Natural History Society in 1894 and 1909.