

“To  
Elizabeth C. B. Buel,  
Regent,  
by the  
M. F. T. Chapter,  
D. A. R.,  
1904.”

ANNA L. B. PLUMB,  
*Historian.*

**Norwalk Chapter** (Norwalk, Connecticut).—The dedication of the tablet secured by the efforts of Norwalk Chapter to commemorate in a historic sense the burning of the town of Norwalk by the British forces under General Tryon, July 11 and 12, 1779, was held on the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the event, near where the English official sat and contemplated with great satisfaction the completion of his ruthless orders. A temporary platform was erected directly at the foot of Grumman's hill, whereon Tryon is reported to have sat.

One of the largest and most notable assemblies proved the deep interest taken. The Rev. W. W. T. Duncan led in prayer. The Chief Executive of the State was then formally introduced.

He stated that he had great pride in Connecticut. This was a patriotic occasion, and he had accepted the invitation of the Madame Regent to be present. He would try to go as far as possible to represent the people of Connecticut and to thank the Daughters of the American Revolution for commemorating the valorous deeds of their ancestors in securing civil and religious liberty. Their deeds cannot be told in words—they are doing what all people do who are honest—they are erecting monuments and tablets to commemorate the sacrifices of the warriors of the Revolution, and preserving historic places. It presents the spirit of the past to generations to come.

Congressman Hill's subject was "Tryon's Raid in Connecticut," and he spoke in his usual direct and forceful manner. He said:

We are assembled here to-day to commemorate the burning of Norwalk one hundred and twenty-five years ago and execrate the memory of the man who ordered the dastard act.

I have been requested to strike one resounding blow at William Tryon, Tory governor of New York, who styled himself Major General Tryon, but who had no more right to the title than he had to the private property which he stole in his plundering and looting march through the Colony of Connecticut. He was never a major general. But he did have one title which was his by right, "The Great Wolf," given him by the Cherokee Indians in North Carolina when he stole their lands from them.

He governed that province as Stuart says, "with the sword, the torch and the halter," and proved himself "an extortioner and an oppressor" from 1765 till 1771, when he was transferred to New York. There he became so unpopular that at one time he was obliged to take refuge from the fury of the populace, on board of a British man-of-war. His zeal for the crown knew no limit, and to plunder, burn and destroy seems to have been his idea of government throughout his career.

But why strike at him when he was but the fitting tool of a greater criminal the British government, which, in its absorbing passion for the extension of English trade, from that day to this has hesitated at nothing, except superior strength, in accomplishing its own purposes. Two years before the New England coast was ravaged in 1779 the British premier made this remarkable statement in the English Parliament, which in the light of to-day seems almost like a prophecy.

"Great Britain and America could not both exist in a state of independence. For such were the sources of wealth and power in that vast continent, from its extent, its products, its seas, its rivers, its unparalleled growth in population, and above all its inexhaustible fund of naval treasures, that this small island which had hitherto supported its greatness by commerce and naval superiority, would be so cramped in its own peculiar resources and overlaid in its proper and natural element, that it must in a few years sink to nothing and perhaps be reduced to that most degrading and calamitous of all possible situations, the becoming a vassal to her own rebellious colonies, if they were once permitted to establish their independence and of course their power."

When the following year an alliance was formed between France and the Colonies, an English commission announced the future policy of Great Britain as follows:

"The question is how far Great Britain may by every means in her power, destroy or render useless a connection contrived for her ruin and the aggrandizement of France. Under such circumstances the laws of self-preservation must direct the conduct of Great Britain and if the British Colonies are to become an accession to France, will direct her to render that accession of as little avail as possible to her enemy."

That declaration was so brutal and hideous in its purport, that it

provoked a protest in Parliament itself, but it was sustained by a vote of 71 to 37 and thereafter Hessians and savages, the scalping knife, the tomahawk and the torch were summoned to the help of the British army, and it was in direct pursuance of this policy as we learn by letters written by Arthur Lee at Paris to Governor Trumbull that orders were issued to ravage the coasts of New England and that Governor William Tryon of New York was fittingly chosen to do the wicked work.

We regret that there is not room to give all of the address.

Mr. Hill then introduced Mrs. Sara T. Kinney, State Regent of Connecticut, who spoke on "Memorial Work of the Patriotic Societies." Mrs. Kinney described the motives and objects of that work in a most eloquent and almost ethical manner, after the usual compliments had been extended. The work performed by the Daughters of the American Revolution was her particular theme. She asserted that it was the mission of this organization to teach to the composite constituents of the present the meaning and lesson of loyalty. They do what they can to lead the world in the matter. This order, it is true, has not the use of pulpits, but its sermons are carved in stone and set by the wayside so that all who pass, of whatever creed, can read.

Inside of nine years forty-five monuments or tablets commemorating historic men or places had been located by the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution. They do not carry guns, but they help in many other ways.

Governor Chamberlain and Mrs. Kinney then unveiled the monument, which up to this time had been covered with a United States flag.

When the unveiling was completed, Mrs. Backus, of Westport, regent of Norwalk Chapter, stepped forward and presented the monument to the town in well chosen words.

*Citizens of the town of Norwalk, Daughters of the American Revolution, guests of the day and friends:* Back in the olden days of Israel, among the earliest records, we read that memorial stones were set up to mark important crises and places in the history of the chosen people of God, and the reason was plainly given in these well remembered words "that this may be a sign among you; that when your children shall ask their

fathers in time to come, saying, 'What mean ye by these stones,' then ye shall answer, 'These stones shall be for a memorial forever.' " It was the same thought in the minds of the founders of this national patriotic society of women, which caused them to designate in their constitution as the first object of the organization "the perpetuating the memory of the spirit of the men and women, who achieved American independence, by the acquisition and protection of historic spots; the erection of monuments, and by the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries." Carrying out this noble sentiment, the organizer and first regent of the Norwalk chapter planned in 1894 the erection of five wayside memorials. Three of these were placed by the chapter in 1895—the Founders' stone in East avenue; the France street tablet, and the Flax Hill memorial, with the old British cannon ball imbedded in its surface. In 1899 another wayside memorial was established on Fitch's Point, the landing place of the British invaders in 1799. To-day we come to this fifth memorial stone, which marks historic Grumman's hill. You know why we place a tablet here; you have heard of that momentous day and of the terror and destruction that followed the command of the British general. This stone marks an epoch in the history of our fair town. And now we, members of the Norwalk Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, present this memorial stone to the town of Norwalk, to be in the care and keeping of the town officials so long as time shall last, and when the children shall ask saying "What mean ye by this stone?" then you shall tell them how out of the destruction and ashes of that fearful eleventh of July, 1779, arose through the courage and indomitable will of our forefathers—yes, and of our foremothers—this beautiful and prosperous town wherein we stand. So shall the memory of the spirit of these noble men and women be perpetuated. So shall the great price of liberty, home and country be better understood. So shall future generations honor their native town and prize its venerable history.

Mr. Lynes accepted the stone in behalf of the town.

The Rev. Mr. Selleck read a paper on historic Norwalk

which we regret we cannot reproduce. There were other patriotic addresses and appropriate music.

Mrs. Charles Terry, State Regent of New York, spoke of memorial work of the Daughters of the American Revolution in an eloquent and fitting manner.

The inscription on the memorial stone is as follows:

From the summit  
of this hill,  
Maj. Gen. William Tryon  
Witnessed  
the burning of Norwalk,  
by the British troops, under his com-  
mand, during the engagement  
of July 11th and 12th, 1779.  
Erected by  
The Norwalk Chapter,  
Daughters of the American Revolution,  
1904.

- **Putnam Hill Chapter** (Greenwich, Connecticut).—It was a source of great satisfaction to the members of Putnam Hill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, to know how Greenwich appreciated their Kirmess. The sum realized was a good one in spite of the fact that the expenses were very heavy. The sum will be used in perfecting the museum near Put's Hill, and the purpose is so patriotic that it is no wonder the people patronized the affair so liberally. The program opened with grand tableaux and procession. These were followed by characteristic dances. It is impossible to describe the costumes. It is sufficient to say that in every dance the costumes were representative of the nations as the dances were representative. Some of the dances were: The Italian Tarentilla, Scotch Reels and Highland Flings, French Court Minuet, Hungarian Gypsy Dance, Irish Harvest dance, the Dance of the Seasons, and the Pickaninnies Dance. The game of bridge whist with the living cards was a unique feature. The pantomime, "The Sleeping Beauty," was performed by wee tiny tots, closing with short nursery rhymes in lipping notes.

To Mrs. Henry H. Abrams, the regent, is due much of the success. Good work has been done by this chapter in the past, in securing Put's Hill and cave, and this but perfects their work.