

ADDRESS

BY REV. WILLIAM B. HAYDEN, PORTLAND, ME.

The Hayden genealogy is one that has attracted my attention only in recent years. I remember that when I was a boy my father used to say that he descended from a noble line, and was "a cousin of Queen Bess." What value this saying may have as a scrap of tradition I am unable to tell. But when I came to investigate the history of the Norfolk line of Heydons, I found in the connection of Queen Anne Boleyn, the mother of Queen Elizabeth, with the Heydons, a fact which seems to lend a color to that allegation. Sir Henry Heydon, about 1450, married an aunt of the queen after whom she was named, a daughter of Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, Lord Mayor of London.

The first paragraph of our family history that came to my notice was an extract from *Weaver's Funereal Monuments*, copied by my wife some twenty years ago from the "Massachusetts Genealogical Register," giving the Watford inscriptions, an account of the Sir William Haydon who perished at Rhea, with a brief notice of the family. Although my wife laid this away in her portfolio, it started no inquiry in us till some years later, when I received a letter from our common friend and relative, Rev. Horace Edward Hayden, then of Western Virginia. He called my attention to the Vinton memorial, while his remarks and inquiries started me on the track of investigation.

. . . We are fortunate in being able to go a long way back in identifying our family name. We must distinguish it from the German *Haydn*, as well as from the Holland *Heyden*, or *Van der Heyden*. Ours first appears among the Normans, and originated on English soil. According to Blomefield, it is derived from the Manor in Norfolk, on which the ancestors were settled after the Conquest. As this was a common mode of acquiring surnames we may safely conclude such to