

townsmen to manage the municipal affairs of the town. He served on the Board of Selectmen for many years. In 1851 he represented the town in the General Court, and had the honor of being one of those who first elected Charles Sumner to the United States Senate, when after many ballotings Sumner was at last chosen by a majority of one. His broad and generous nature and a keen moral sense led him to engage earnestly in the antislavery and temperance reforms, when they were first started and were extremely unpopular, and he could never tolerate injustice, dishonesty, or impurity, whether practised in public or private station.

William, the fifth son, was born May 14, 1808. He remained at home until about eighteen years of age, when he went to work in one of the paper mills in the North Village of Leominster. He remained there one or two years, and then apprenticed himself to learn the trade of tanner and currier at the shop of his uncle, William, and his cousin, Leonard Burrage, as his brother, George S., had done before him. His time expired in the spring of 1830, when he was twenty-two years old. He then went to Boston, and worked for a short time for his brother, George S., for \$10 per month. But a prominent leather dealer, who was interested in a patent leather-splitting machine, desired to get agents to travel South and West to sell the machines, and William engaged himself for that work. He was gone several months, enduring great fatigue