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A Brome Octogendrian.

By ERNEST M. TAYLOR.

Lester Ball was born 28th of September, 1815, on the 6th lot of the 6th Range of the Township of Brome. The farm is now owned by Levi Shufelt, of Brome.

Mr. Ball's grandfather, Jacob Ball, came from Dunham into Brome in 1800, having lived in Dunham six or seven years. He was born in Newfane, Vermont, in 1764, but settled in early manhood on South Hero Island, in Lake Champlain. Here his son, afterwards known as Capt. James Ball and the father of Lester Ball, was born in 1787.

The wife of the grandfather of Mr. Ball was a daughter of Capt. Ephraim Stone, who settled in Brome where R. Edmund Miller now lives.

Capt. Ephraim Stone was not a United Empire Loyalist, but was a Revolutionary soldier, and was a lieutenant at Lexington and Bunker Hill. He was also at Ticonderoga. [See New Hampshire Revolutionary Rolls.] He was born at Keene, New Hampshire. His son-in-law, Jacob Ball, was of the U. E. L. family, as were the Knowltons, who early settled in Brome.

Captain James Ball, father of Lester Ball, married his cousin Abigail Stone, daughter of Daniel Stone, who was also a Revolutionary soldier, and a corporal in Capt. Cole's Company.

This Daniel Stone settled in Brome in 1799 on the farm now owned by Jerry Jackson.

On the 2nd of September, 1830, now nearly sixty years ago, Lester Ball married Mary Ann Gilman.

They have had seven children, and after nearly sixty years both parents are living and each child also.

CHILDREN.

1. Alexander Lester, born June, 1840, lives in Dublin, N.H.
2. Newton S., born February 1st, 1842, lives in Springfield, Mass.
3. Alzina Mary, born March 8th, 1845, married C. H. Smith, of Moncton, Vt.
4. Edgar Adolphus, born March 8th, 1847, lives in Springfield, Mass.
5. Martha Dorinda, born July 10th, 1854, married Casper H. Dean, Moncton, Vt.
6. Ernest Selby, born August 10th, 1856, lives now in New York.

7. Forest Eugene, born January, 1859, lives in East Deerfield, Mass.

Mr. Lester Ball has, with the single exception of one year, until last Autumn, lived in Brome Township. Last autumn he and his wife went to live with their son Ernest in New York City.

On the occasion of their departure their friends gave them a banquet at Eldridge's Hotel, Brome. Hon. Judge Lynch, President of the Brome County Historical Society, presided.

Several ministers were present and other



LESTER BALL, AGE 84.

professional men took part in the formal leave taking of the esteemed friends.

Mr. Ball has been a farmer all his life. This did not prevent him from emulating the example of his father and other relatives when the Canadian Rebellion broke out. He served in 1837 as a sergeant in the infantry. The next year, 1838, he joined the cavalry as private under Capt. Alonzo Wood. He still holds his discharge. He holds a Lieutenant's commission in a special company commanded by Capt. Ballard.

Mr. Ball served as School Commissioner for twelve years, and was Chairman of the Board for eight years of the time.

He is one of the Charter members of the first Good Templars' Lodge formed in Brome.

He also joined the Sons of Temperance.

He has been a teetotaler throughout his long life.

Mr. Ball served his township as Bridge Inspector for two terms.

He is identified with the Church of England.

On his marriage day he made three vows: 1st. That his wife should never see him come home drunk.

2nd. That she should never hear him use profane language.

3rd. That neither she, nor his children should they have any, would ever see him working on Sunday in any unnecessary way. These he has been able to keep.

BOLTON PASS.

Mr. Lester Ball, when a young man setting up sable traps, discovered the Bolton Pass as a suitable place through which to construct a road. He came over and told Col. Paul H. Knowlton, who, with him, took it in hand. Col. Knowlton sent for Lindel Corey, land surveyor, living in Stanbridge. Col. Knowlton

employed some men who, with the surveyor, all of whom were friends of Mr. Ball, went over to where the old Magog road enters the Bolton Pass at the Isman Coon place, and began the survey through the forest.

The first day they surveyed through as far as the Tub Factory, just above Knowlton Village. Mr. Ball was then near his own home, as he then lived on the highland farm near where the Knowlton Reservoir is now situated. This place is the 11th lot of the 11th range of Brome.

His father, Capt. James Ball, then lived on the north side of Cold Brook, opposite the factory. The farm is now owned by Israel England & Sons.

Capt. James Ball settled on that farm in 1817, when the subject of our sketch was two years old.

The second day the surveying party started out from the point of the termination of the previous day, and that night they camped beside a spring near the place on which Mr. Edward Owens' house now stands.

The third day the party completed the necessary survey, and reached Parker Gilman's place, now called Gilman Corner, where they again struck the old Magog Road, which had been constructed many years before, and which had been followed by the waggons from Stanstead via Copp's Ferry, Georgeville, to and from Montreal, these processions of waggons doing the