

constantly called upon by American captains who had vessels in the harbor, to visit the British vessels anchored there and learn the intentions of their commanders concerning the American vessels as well as the town, much alarm being felt by the inhabitants on that score, a dozen at a time sometimes besieging him for assurance that their houses would not be burned. Provincetown and its harbor being neutral ground did not prevent a band of British soldiers or sailors from appropriating certain movable property, such as cows and calves, and to Squire Thomas's tact and legal ability the despoiled and frightened owners looked for redress, and, owing to his prompt and pacific measures, never in vain. His house was in the centre of the town, and the British men-of-war obtained their supplies of water from his well, the neighbors being afraid to have the British soldiers and sailors on their premises, and it was no unusual sight to see his yard well filled with the war-like invaders in a state of the most perfect neutrality and good humor.

After the war he continued his busy, useful life, always enacting the part of a peace-maker when right and justice would permit him to do so.

He d. of consumption, Nov. 22, 1822, in his fifty-first year.

Orsamus Thomas was of a most affectionate disposition in his home-circle, and had that far-reaching and rare gift of good will to his fellow-men which made them all his brothers. In person, he was tall and portly, with dark-brown hair, blue eyes, and remarkably fine teeth, only one of which had been removed at the time of his death.

A most pathetic and significant index to his lovable character was the devotion of his little dog Embargo, so named for the famous embargo of 1807. The dog