

His father's skill in medicine had brought to the house young Isaac Robinson, who studied for a time with Dr. Thomas. He afterward established himself in Hardwick, but removed thence to Vermont, where he continued the practice of medicine.

In later years his daughter, Rachel, became the wife of Sylvanus Thomas. Though having had but limited educational advantages, even for those times, Rachel Robinson was, before her marriage, a successful teacher in Adams, Mass., and in several towns in Vermont. She brought no small amount of energy and cultivation to her husband's home, over which she presided with dignity and helpfulness between the years 1806 and 1832, when her death occurred. Five children came to the household during that time, all of whom lived to mature years.

Sylvanus Thomas was married twice afterward, the third wife, Sarah Dunbar, surviving him.

In the last years of his life all his beautiful traits of character seemed intensified, and the writer can testify that to none were these words of the poet more applicable:—

"None knew thee but to love thee,
Nor named thee but to praise."

Sylvanus Thomas d. July 31, 1863; aged 82.

He had five children, all by 1st wife, and all born on the old homestead in West Brookfield:—

152. CAROLINE THOMAS, b. Dec. 22, 1806; m. Carlton Cushman and had issue.

153. ELIZA DOTY THOMAS, b. June 27, 1809; m. William Balcom and had issue.

154. WILLIAM ROBINSON THOMAS, b. May 10, 1811; d. April 13, 1890; m. Orpha Bartlett, dau. of John and Sarah Bartlett, Oct. 3, 1842. She was b. in Granby, Mass., Sept. 28, 1816; d. April 22, 1889. They had no children.

William Robinson, the only son of Sylvanus and Rachel Thomas, inherited from both families of his ancestors a desire and taste for study and imparting