

The **Erving Gazette**

And

**Millers Falls News**

For the Year

1884, 1885, 1886, 1887

From the annals of the

**Montague Historical Society**

Compiled by  
**Ed Gregory**  
For the M.H.S.  
December, 2023

Albeit, the collection is incomplete, we offer what's available for your perusal, enjoyment, and a look into the determined effort of a local man on a resolute mission.

Both

The **Erving Gazette**

and

**Millers Falls News**

For the Year

1884, **1885**, 1886, 1887

Are included in this segment.

**Jan. 12, 1885** is single side. All others two sides.

A single issue of **Millers Falls News, 1885** is two sides.

An introduction from John Adams Taggart



COPY OF ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE  
GAZETTE COURIER IN JULY 1931

By J. A. Taggart

"It may be of interest to some, it certainly was to the writer, to know that the town of Erving and the village of Millers Falls were each at one time the home of a newspaper. Not long since, the writer discovered a sizable book bound in an embossed morocco, on the outside cover of which appeared in gold letters "The Erving Gazette--The Millers Falls News". A perusal of the book revealed that it contained complete files of the above named papers together with a short history of their editor and publisher, William Lester Strong.

The history is here partially given. "Seldom does the life of so young present so much that is so worthy of record as that of the subject of this sketch. Although he had not reached his twenty-eighth birthday at the time of his death, he had attained a position in the community which would be counted success for a man in middle life.

William Strong was born at the home of his parents in Erving, Massachusetts, midway between Erving village and Millers Falls, on January 25, 1874. His education began in the district school near his parents' home, where he very early gave evidence of the brilliant intellect and tenacity of purpose which were marked characteristics of his short but successful life. Here, a little before his tenth birthday, he established the

## II

Erving Gazette, which he published regularly each week, until he began its successor, the Millers Falls News.

These little papers were published each week for over four years. William acted as editor, proof reader, and publisher. The printing is better than that of the average County newspaper of that time. The proof-reading is excellent and the original and selected items show the workings of an unusually bright young mind and the quaint modesty with which he veiled his own personality. In November, 1885, he moved with his parents to Millers Falls where he continued to attend the public school. Here he published the Millers Falls News, a little paper similar to his previous venture, and did quite an amount of job printing. He was also the correspondent of the Gazette & Courier and the Orange Enterprise. After graduating from the schools in Millers Falls, he attended Powere Institute in Bernardston, where he graduated in 1892.

He then attended Hinmans' Business College in Worcester, where he graduated on April 24, 1893. William Strong was now a young man nineteen years of age, active and unusually intelligent, with a thorough business education and a well grounded habit of industry and thrift, inherited from a long line of New England ancestry reaching back to William Strong, a passenger on the Mayflower. June 1893, he accepted a position as clerk in the freight office of the Boston & Maine railroad at Worcester. In the fall of 1894, he resigned his position in Worcester to become agent and cashier in the freight office of the Fitchburg R. R. at Millers Falls, where he remained a little over five years. January 12, 1900, he became station agent of



### III

the B. & M. R. R. at Marlboro, Mass. From Marlboro, he was transferred to the freight office of the B & M at Troy, New York, where he quickly became popular with all. On Nov. 27, 1901, he was taken to the hospital suffering with typhoid fever, where he passed to the higher life on Jan. 10, 1902.

The first issue of the Erving Gazette was dated Dec. 10, 1883, the last Dec. 15, 1884. First issue of the Millers Falls News on Dec. 22, 1884, the last issue on Dec. 31, 1887. Price per year twenty-five cents. The one and only ad appearing in the News was as follows: "Dr. C. L. Fisk, Sen. had devised and prepared a medicine composed of fluid extracts of medicinal roots for the cure of Costiveness, indigestion dyspepsia, loss of appetite, rheumatism, catarrh, bronchitis, malaria, liver and kidney complaint, and all impurities of the blood, kept and sold at his office, 43 Main Street, Greenfield, Mass. There might have been other ills which that medicine would cure but the News was a small sheet and evidently had no space for more than were mentioned.

And so the News was born, flourished for a time, and died a natural death like many another enterprise of like nature. Had William not submitted to the lure of railroading, who knows but Millers Falls might not at this time boast of a dangerous rival of the Gazette & Courier, that honorable publication which has survived the vicissitudes of well over a century, and has played its helpful part in the lives of several generations.

---



THE  
**ERVING GAZETTE**

ERVING, MASS., JANUARY 12, 1885.

THE ERVING GAZETTE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

**WILLIE L. STRONG,**  
ERVING, MASS.

TERMS.

One Year, 25 cts

**POEM.**

Extract from Dr. C. L. Fisk's birthday poem.

'Twas on a cold December morn,  
The twenty-fifth, that I was born,  
In the year eighteen hundred four,  
Which makes my age now just four score.

Of the long race whose name I bear  
But few now live, with me to share  
The advent of my natal day,  
As most have died and passed away.

The last old tree will soon decay,  
Crumble to dust and pass away;  
But then, may not from the old root  
Spring forth a branch with choicer fruit?

So that called death is but a change  
Of form, or state, more free to range  
Through boundless space from star to star,  
From world to world, though distant far.

May we not then our kindred meet,  
And with glad hearts each other greet,  
While genial spirits bid us come  
With open arms to our new home?

A cheering thought, that when we go  
From this transient world below,  
There is a home for us above  
Where all is harmony and love.

This world, not "all a fleeting show,"  
I have lived long enough to know,  
Although illusive, it is given  
To educate the soul for heaven.

So will I trust till life shall end,  
In a paternal Father, friend,  
Whose kindly care is ever sure,  
And will eternally endure.

This birthday poem I indite,  
May be the last that I shall write;  
If this be so, and I depart,  
Believe it from an honest heart.

**Born.**

*In this town, 5th, a son to Mr. and Mrs. K. Nims.*

Mrs. Rodney Gunn, who for some time has been sick at the house of her father, Mr. Dwight Briggs, has so far recovered as to be able to return to her home, at Millers Falls.

About 15 of the relatives and friends of Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Gunn, visited them on last Friday, and enjoyed a fine turkey dinner.

Sociable at the Band room next Wednesday evening. Rev. Mr. H. W. Eldridge of Turners Falls is expected to be present, and will speak at the hall.

*The week of prayer was well observed, there being meetings in the village every evening during the week. There were also two meetings on the river road, which were interesting and well attended.*

Beware of judging hastily: it is better to suspend an opinion than to retract an assertion.



THE  
**ERVING GAZETTE**

ERVING, MASS., AUGUST 24, 1885.

**THE ERVING GAZETTE**

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
**WILLIE L. STRONG,**  
ERVING, MASS.

Terms, One Year, 25 cts.

**TRUE COURAGE.**

If hope's bright smile was all which threw  
A radiance o'er our way,  
And if our path were strewn with flowers,  
And life an endless day—

Then we should have no courage left,  
That we could call our own;  
For, if we have no trials here,  
Our passions are not shown.

The stars, which shine in darken'd sky,  
Grow pale at dawn of day—  
So virtue, though in sunshine bright,  
Has no warm, beaming ray.

Sorrow's deep cloud must veil our way,  
Ere we can know the truth;  
Then let our cares and trials come,  
While yet we are yet in youth.

So let us live, that when we're called  
To leave this world of gloom,  
Our thoughts and deeds may still be bright,  
When we are in the tomb!

—  
“Leaves have their time  
to fall,” and so has a man,  
when he steps on a banana  
peel.

—  
Live for something.

THE ADVANTAGES OF LABOR.

The rich man pays dearly for health—the laboring man is paid to be healthy. Exercise is the best physician. Those who have strength, and a good pair of legs, need not to be drawn in a carriage. Carriages are fine things for doctors. The more they increase, the more need will there be of medical men and drugs; and those who never work, create for themselves weak arms, delicate hands, and infirm or crooked spines. Labor has its joys as well as its sorrows, and a far higher reward than that of wages. If this fact were better understood, no one would be idle. Far better is it to work for no pay at all, than to suffer the ills of having nothing to do. A good appetite, healthy digestion, and a free circulation of the blood, are among the blessings of labor.



---

**Vicinity News.**

Noah Rankin is about to put in a new flume at his chair shop.

H. D. Reynolds is adding another story to his house in the village.

Smith Perry of Millers Falls is about to put up a house on Lester Hill.

A. T. Tenney of Millers Falls has improved the looks of his house by adding new blinds.

Young men from Mt. Hermon conducted the services at the Congregational church yesterday.

Rev. J. H. Parmelee returned from Martha's Vineyard on last Saturday, where he has been stopping about two weeks.

---

It is little troubles that wear the heart out. It is easier to throw a bombshell a mile, than a feather—even with artillery.

---

Down with the tyrant,  
Rum!

An Irishman accosted a gentleman in the street late at night, with a request for the time. The gentleman, suspecting that Pat wished to snatch his watch, gave him a stinging rap on the nose, with the remark, "It has just struck one,"—"Be jabbers," retorted Pat, "I'm glad I didn't ax yez an hour ago!"

---

Look on slanderers as direct enemies of civil society, as persons without honor, honesty, or humanity. Whoever entertains you by pointing out the faults of others designs to serve you in a similar manner.

---

It is more wise to prevent a quarrel beforehand than to revenge it afterwards.

---

**DR. C. L. FISK, SEN.,**

Has devised and prepared a medicine composed of the fluid

**EXTRACT OF MEDICINAL ROOTS**  
for the cure of Costiveness, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Loss of Appetite, Catarrh, Bronchitis, Malarial Diseases, Rheumatism, Liver and Kidney Affections, and all **Impurities of the Blood.**

Kept and sold at his office,  
43 MAIN STREET, GREENFIELD, MASS.



THE  
**ERVING GAZETTE**

ERVING, MASS., DECEMBER 21, 1885.

**THE ERVING GAZETTE**

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
**WILLIE L. STRONG,**  
MILLERS FALLS, MASS.

**CHRISTMAS TIDINGS.**

Christmas bells are ringing, ringing,  
On the frosty air,  
And the Angels, too, are singing  
From the sky so fair,—  
‘Peace on earth’ they’re softly singing,  
Tidings glad they bear!

Cease, sad hearts, your weary sighing—  
Let your murmurs cease,  
Cease, O burdened ones! your crying,  
Ye shall have release—  
On the wings of love are hieing  
Messages of peace!

Let all evil be forgiven  
Unto every one;  
Let sweet gifts of love be given,  
Let kind deeds be done,—  
God, our Father, up in heaven,  
Gave His only son!

Ring, O bells, ring clear and merry!  
Let your glad chimes thrill—  
Let the silv’ry words ye carry  
Every bosom fill!  
Christ is born on earth to tarry—  
Gift of God’s good will!

If our whole time was  
spent in amusing ourselves,  
we should find it more  
wearisome than the hardest  
day’s work.

A MITIGATING CIRCUM-  
STANCE.—“Well, Ethelinda  
De Wiggs, I don’t see how  
you could go and engage  
yourself to that old Slimp-  
kins. Why, he hasn’t a  
tooth in his head,” exclaim-  
ed Miss. Wigg’s dearest  
friend, when she heard of  
the engagement.

“Well, dear,” was the  
reply, “you mustn’t be too  
hard on him on that account,  
for he was born that  
way.”

“He was? I didn’t know  
that, or I wouldn’t have said  
anything about it, was the  
sympathetic response.

Grief knits two hearts in  
closer bonds than happiness  
ever can; as common suf-  
ferings are far stronger links  
than common joys.

The cultivation of the  
moral nature in man is the  
grand means for the im-  
provement of society.



---

### CHRISTMAS.

There is no other anniversary so dear to the hearts of Christian people as this day, which commemorates the birth of our dear Saviour. On this day, more than any other of all the year, are we led to feel the great love of the "One God and Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in all," in giving to his erring children his only begotten son, that through his life and example, his teachings, and above all his sufferings and death, we might all become reconciled to God, and become heirs of the glory of His kingdom.

God has ever been mindful of his children, but this gift of a Saviour was the crowning blessing.

How very appropriate it is that on the anniversary of that glad and glorious day, that ushered in the gospel dispensations, we should celebrate the event with gifts, accompanied with messages of love, good wishes, and kindly remembrance.

We always speak of this day as "Merry Christmas," and certainly if we believe in Him whose birth we celebrate we have a right to be merry on that day.

Dear readers of the **ERVING GAZETTE**, we wish you all a Merry Christmas.

---

### Vicinity News.

Frank Lavalla, while chopping in the woods on last Friday, cut his foot quite severely.

This paper will hereafter be called the **MILLERS FALLS NEWS**.

A cross beside the name signifies that the time of subscription has expired. We should be pleased to have it renewed.

---

### DR. C. L. FISK, SEN.,

Has devised and prepared a medicine composed of the fluid

**EXTRACT OF MEDICINAL ROOTS**  
for the cure of Costiveness, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Loss of Appetite, Catarrh, Bronchitis, Malarial Diseases, Rheumatism, Liver and Kidney Affections, and all **Impurities of the Blood.**

Kept and sold at his office,  
43 MAIN STREET, GREENFIELD, MASS.



# The Millers Falls News.

MILLERS FALLS, MASS., DECEMBER 26, 1885.

## The Millers Falls News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

**WILLIE L. STRONG,**

MILLERS FALLS, MASS.

Terms, One Year, 25 cts.

### THE OLD YEAR.

A shadow stood by my bed last night—  
A shadow wan, and worn, and old;  
With a frozen look on the wrinkled face,  
And the hand he laid on mine was cold.  
In the ghostly presence I shook with dread,  
And shrank from his touch with curdling  
fear,  
As I cried: "God save me! spectre grim,  
What sorrowful errand brings thee  
here?"  
Then the pale lips moved, and a whisper  
came,  
Like a breath from the north wind, chill  
and drear;  
"O timid mortal, be not afraid  
Of the skinking form of the dying year!  
I am sealing the records my pen hath  
made—  
To be read in the light of the Great  
Throne;  
Hast thou aught to tell, ere my book is  
closed,  
Of labor for Christ that thou hast done?  
With the names of those who day by day  
Scattered the precious seed with tears—  
Who bound full sheaves in the harvest  
time,  
And garnered stores for the coming  
years,  
I have vainly looked, oh child of earth,  
If thine, perchance, might be entered  
there;

Arise, be doing, 'tis not yet too late,  
For thee, if thou wilt, there are gleanings  
rare!

"There are golden grains by others lost,  
And sheaves that the reaper in haste  
forgot;

Up, sluggard soul, from slothful rest,  
The hours are precious; oh, waste them  
not!

Oh, work! oh, work! for the time is short,  
To write thee the Lord's ere the bell is  
tolled

That shall tell to the world that the old  
year

Is laid in the shadows, stark and cold!"

\* \* \*  
The bell tolled slow for the old year gone;  
Alas for the work that was left undone!

—o—o—o—  
"He drinks." We are  
heartily sorry for the young  
man of whom this is the  
current report, not only  
because he is in danger of  
going to a drunkard's grave,  
but because it is becoming  
harder and harder every year  
for him to get a chance in  
the world. The time will come  
when he must either leave  
off drinking entirely, or  
suffer an almost complete so-  
cial and business ostracism.

—  
Charms strike the sight,  
but merit wins the soul.



#### Millers Falls.

We regret to learn that Mr. James Pease has left Millers Falls for the West.

The Millers Falls manufacturing shop has closed for two days, to take count of stock.

The services of Rev. Charles Scott has been secured until the first of April, with the expectation of retaining him longer if desirable.

Last night a party of thieves stole a horse at the town farm, a carriage belonging to George Goddard, and coming to this village entered the new variety store, taking articles to the amount of about \$50.

The Christmas entertainment given by the Sunday School, in Union hall last evening, was very interesting. The hall was well filled with people, and the trees were bountifully supplied with presents. Santa Claus received a warm reception, and we hope to see him again in this place next year.

#### Erving.

H. D. Reynolds is about to move into his new house.

Mrs. P. Wheeler has sold her house on Main Street to Mr. Stebbins.

Charles Hanson has purchased the house owned by William Packard on Church Street.

Fred Woodard and Joseph Rankin are at home spending the holidays with their friends.

Charles and Lena Holmes started for Stanbridge, Canada, last Wednesday where they are to attend school this winter.

Subscribe for the MILLERS FALLS NEWS, which will now be printed every Saturday.

#### DR. C. L. FISK, SEN.,

Has devised and prepared a medicine composed of the fluid

#### EXTRACT OF MEDICINAL ROOTS

for the cure of Costiveness, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Loss of Appetite, Catarrh, Bronchitis, Malarial Diseases, Rheumatism, Liver and Kidney Affections, and all Impurities of the Blood.

Kept and sold at his office,

43 MAIN STREET, GREENFIELD, MASS.