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### First Section

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# John Abner Mead

**Biographical Sketch of the Present Governor of Vermont,  
A Descendant of four of the "Mayflower" Pilgrims,  
Soldier of the War to Preserve the Union, Physician, Man  
of Business, and Statesman, A Successful Attainment  
Through Energy, Perseverance, and the Will to Work**



**JOHN ABNER MEAD, the present Governor of Vermont, was born at Fair Haven, Vermont, April 20, 1841, and was the only child of Roswell Rowley Mead and Lydia Ann, daughter of Eli Gorham of Rutland, Vermont.**

On the maternal side he traces his ancestry back to four of the original Mayflower colonists, one of the number being John Howland, the "Beloved Pilgrim" of Plymouth, Massachusetts. On the paternal side of the family he was a great great-grandchild of Colonel James Mead of the Revolutionary days, who was the first white settler in the Valley of the Otter Creek, moderator of the first town-meeting, the first selectman elected, and the first representative to the first Legislature from Otter Creek Valley. Colonel Mead was also father of the first white child born in the Valley. He was Colonel of the Third Vermont Colonial Regiment, whose deeds are referred to in the State Records of that day.

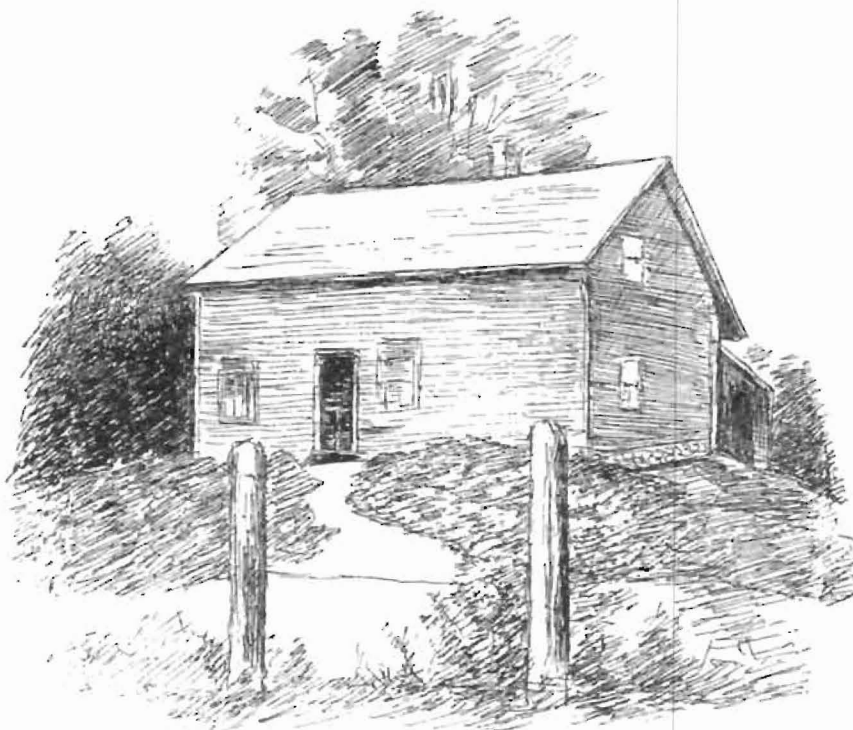
Governor Mead is emphatically a self-made man, and his history is unique in the fact that he has built up fortune and fame through his native ability and force of character. Although compelled to support himself at the age of sixteen, he earned his way through Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, and also through the Medical Department of Columbia University of New York. He was a practising physician in Rutland for eighteen years, during which time he built up an enormous practice. He left college at the close of his Sophomore year and became a soldier in the Civil War. On returning from the War he finished his course at Middlebury, graduating in 1864. In the spring of 1869 he graduated in medicine.

John Abner Mead was appointed Surgeon-General on the Staff of the late Governor Redfield Proctor in 1878. As *Aide-de-Camp*, he served also on the Staffs of Generals Alger, Veazey, and Gilman, Commanders of the G. A. R.

During a long and active career he has been prominent in public life and in commercial and financial affairs, and has held many positions of trust and responsibility in Town and State. He served Vermont as County Senator in 1892, as

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Town Representative in 1906, as Lieutenant-Governor in 1908, and was elected Governor in 1910. The degree of Doctor of Laws has thrice been conferred upon him,—by Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont; by his *Alma Mater*, Middlebury College, and by the University of Vermont at Burlington. He is a trustee of each of these institutions. In politics he is a Republican, in Masonic circles, a member of the Order of the Mystic Shrine; in religion, a Congregationalist. He was elected the first Mayor of Rutland in 1893. He has been President of the Howe Scale Company since 1888 and of the Baxter National Bank of Rutland since April, 1904.



BIRTHPLACE OF GOVERNOR MEAD