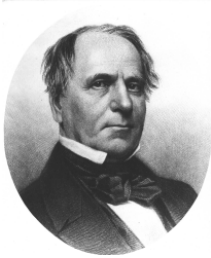


Four Massachusetts Leaders in Public Health ...

◆Shattuck ◆Bowditch ◆Walcott ◆Bigelow



Lemuel Shattuck , 1793 – 1859

Publisher, bookseller, teacher, statistician, and legislator, a man with high moral and social standards is often referred to as the “Father of Public Health”. His Report of a General Plan for the Promotion of Public and Personal Health in Massachusetts, “*The Sanitary Survey of 1850*”, was possibly the most significant document in the history of public health. His far-reaching ideas on health and sanitary reforms resulted in the establishment of the nation’s first State Board of Health in 1869.



HENRY INGERSOLL BOWDITCH, M.D.

Henry Ingersoll Bowditch, M.D., 1808 - 1892

Abolitionist, tuberculosis specialist, humanitarian, champion of the weak, became the first Chairman of the State Board of Health in 1869: the result of energetic efforts by himself and others to implement the “Shattuck Report of 1850”. During the ten years he served, many aspects of public health were investigated, studied and organized among them, the start of regulations of housing for the poor, for slaughtering houses, and for preventing the pollution of water. He felt the next century would bring the guarantee of minimum health standards for everyone.



HENRY PICKERING WALCOTT, M.D.

Henry Pickering Walcott, M.D., 1838 - 1932

Chairman of the State Board of Health from 1886 to 1914, and under his guidance became an authoritative source of medical and engineering knowledge. He initiated many programs and had experts join the Board to find ways of preventing pollution of water and the contamination of milk. During this period, Massachusetts pioneered in projects of worldwide significance: the Lawrence Experiment Station opened in 1886 becoming the center of studies in water filtration: a decade later, the Biological Laboratories were established to produce diphtheria toxin and smallpox vaccine.



GEORGE H. BIGELOW, M.D.

George Hoyt Bigelow, M.D., 1891 - 1935

The third commissioner of public health in 1925. A man of unusual talent, energy and persistence, he fought for smallpox vaccinations for everyone, waged war against sales of unpasteurized milk, had contaminated shellfish removed from markets, and warned about the threat of rabies. He also supervised the beginning efforts to care for victims of chronic disease.

