

John Milton Earle, 1794-1874

WCHS President 1848-1851

Artist: James S. Lincoln

- Born in Leicester to Pliny and Patience Earle
- Married Sarah Hussey, a leader in the anti-slavery and women's rights movements; they had 4 children
- Came to Worcester in 1818 to work with his brother-in-law in a "store of general Merchandise"
- One of the original WCHS founders; a lifetime member; president and long-time trustee
- Horticulture was his "recreation and delight." For years he was one of the largest contributors to WCHS exhibitions and throughout the 1850's competed with Daniel Waldo Lincoln over the number of pears exhibited
- Held several local and statewide positions: Member of the General Court as a representative and senator, Postmaster, Worcester Alderman and Commissioner of Indian Affairs. His collection of documentation on Massachusetts Indian Tribes is still consulted regularly by historians
- In 1823 purchased the *Massachusetts Spy* - which did much "to make Worcester County the stronghold of conscientious and determined political opposition to slavery." Regularly published reviews of the WCHS exhibitions in the paper
- Strong interest in genealogy, tracing his own family back to Queen Elizabeth I in England

". . . a man of kind feelings, refined taste, independent judgment, and cultivated intellect ever ready with the generous aid of the zealous and unpaid labor of his body and mind to promote good learning, pure morals, personal freedom and all institutions and movements that he considered adapted to make men wiser, better and happier."

