

## **Obadiah B. Hadwen, 1824-1907**

**WCHS President 1875-1876; 1895-1907**

**Artist: H. E. Kinney**

- Born in Providence, Rhode Island to Charles and Amey Sherman (Brownell) Hadwen
- Married Harriet Page of Westminster, Vermont and they had 3 children
- A leading Worcester County horticulturist who was involved in the WCHS and the Worcester Agricultural Society from the earliest days; held many offices in both institutions
- Known as a continuous and prolific produce exhibitor
- "His principal delight was practical and scientific agriculture and horticulture..."
- Also active as Parks Commissioner beginning in 1867
- Donated 50 acres of land to what are now Hadwen Park and Hadwen Arboretum
- He died at his home at the corner of May and Lovell Streets in 1907

*"His home was adorned with trees of his own planting and which were of a varied nature. Trees which were declared to be impossible of growth in this climate he planted and with care transformed them into hardy growths which added much to the beauty of his home. Many of these specimens are from foreign countries and have been visited by men from all over the United States, who were surprised at and admired the ability of the owner.... At his home his best talents have been expended, and the grounds surrounding the house have been the delight of horticulturists who have visited the place from all over the country. His home was given the name of Magnolia several years ago, owing to there being fifteen varieties of that tree about the grounds."*