



Name: Nathaniel Parker Willis

Years: January 20, 1806- January 20, 1867

Residence: Cornwall-on-the-Hudson

Brief Biography: Nathaniel Parker Willis was born in Portland, Maine to a family of printers and publishers. His father published "the Recorder" out of Boston, Mass., one of the world's first religious papers. Willis graduated from Yale University in 1827. During his college career he wrote poetry under the pen-name "Roy" for his father's paper. Post-graduation Willis became editor of two Boston annuals, "The Legendary" and "The Token". During that time he established his own publication "The American Monthly Magazine" which ran for two years before merging with "New York Mirror", a weekly publication dealing with matters of society and literature. In 1831 Willis departed for Europe and Asia as a correspondent for this paper. In 1837 Willis returned to America and decided to call the small Hudson Valley town of Cornwall-on-the-Hudson home. He purchased a small estate that he named Idlewild where he lived with his second wife. The "New York Mirror" continued to be successful until the early 1840's.

Attempts were made at resurrecting the publication, ending successfully when it was transformed into "Home Journal", which continues to be published to this day. Willis continued to edit for the paper up until the time of his death. In addition to his publications Willis was revered for his poetry and religious writings over the years both in America and abroad. He even presented some of his prose at the New York Lyceum which was attended by famous authors of the day like Cooper and Irving. He died in 1867 at his Cornwall-on-the-Hudson home.

References: <http://www.famousamericans.net/nathanielparkerwillis/>