

ELMORE SHERWOOD BANKS

BANKS, ELMORE SHERWOOD, lawyer, Judge of Probate of Fairfield, Connecticut, and for several terms a representative in the General Assembly, who was born in Fairfield, Connecticut, May 24th, 1866, is a descendant of John Banks, who came from England and settled in Fairfield about 1640 and was lieutenant, boundary commissioner, and in many ways a prominent public man of his day. Mr. Banks is the son of Simon Banks, a merchant and farmer, who was assessor and a member of the school board and a man whose most conspicuous traits were industry, persistence, and honesty. Hannah Dwyer Banks, his mother, died when he was but two years old, but his stepmother filled her place in his life and exerted the best of influences upon his character.

Elmore Banks was a strong, robust, country boy, who delighted in athletics and particularly inclined to baseball. He was fond of reading and found the translations of Cicero and Virgil and the study of orations and oratory his most helpful literature. He was able to secure a thorough education, though obliged to work during vacations in his father's store and on the farm. This early work inculcated habits of industry and economy that have been of lasting value. He attended the Hopkins Grammar School at New Haven and entered the academic department of Yale University with the class of 1888, but left during his sophomore year. He afterwards entered Yale Law School, where he was graduated in 1895. In 1890 he taught school in Kentucky, where he met Beulah May Galloway, whom he married in April, 1898. From 1890 to 1893 he conducted a store, in 1894 he became town clerk of Fairfield, and in 1895 he was admitted to the bar and began the practice of law. In 1896, the year after the opening of his legal career, Mr. Banks became Judge of Probate of Fairfield and he still holds this office. He has continued in the practice of law with success in the firm of Davenport & Banks of Bridgeport. He has been attorney for the town of Fairfield since 1896 and was attorney for the County Commissioners in 1901.

In politics Judge Banks is a Republican of great activity and prominence. He represented Fairfield in the General Assembly in 1901, 1903, and 1905, and was leader of the House in 1903. During the session of 1901 he was chairman of the committee on insurance and in 1903 and 1904 was chairman of the committee on judiciary and rules. He was also a member of the committee on the revision of Statutes. His favorite relaxation from business is in out-of-door sports such as baseball, horseback riding, rowing, hunting, and fishing.

The law was Mr. Banks' own choice of a profession and he considers that the strongest encouragement and incentive in attaining success in that profession has been the influence of his wife. Of that success, which has been true success in every sense of the word, he says: "I have had to work hard for all I have accomplished and, while that has been but little, I am reasonably well satisfied with the results thus far achieved. Three things only are necessary to success—honesty, work, and fair ability. With these anyone in good health can succeed."