

COMMEMORATIVE BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

479

changed to Storm & Hill, with slight change in personnel of firm. That year he was put in charge of the collections and disbursements and made assistant in the credit department.

As Chicago promised a better field for the dry goods business the firm removed, in 1881, to that city, where the business was soon after incorporated as a stock company, without change in name. Mr. Fitts then became a large stockholder and was elected treasurer of the company. From this time, in addition to the responsible duties of treasurer, he was in charge of the credit department until the company retired from business in 1892. The company and its predecessors for nearly fifty years did a successful business and maintained a high and undoubted credit and an enviable reputation for honorable dealing.

The same year Mr. Fitts returned to Connecticut, and has since spent his summers in his native town of Ashford, making that his home. He has never taken any particular interest in politics. He is a member of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, as a descendant of Col. Thomas Knowlton and Daniel Fitts, and is also a member of the Connecticut Historical Society. With his brothers, he attends the Congregational Church, and with them contributes liberally for the support of that denomination. All are public-spirited, honorable and intelligent gentlemen, and their native town has profited to a considerable extent by their business and social achievements.

THE MOORE FAMILY, from which was descended Waity (Moore) Fitts, is traced to John Moore, of Richmond, R. I., who was born in England toward the close of the seventeenth century, and who is first heard of through the record of the birth of his three children in Westerly, R. I. He was a freeman in 1728, and in 1704 he bought a tract of land in the northern part of the town of Richmond, R. I., which property is still in the possession of the family. On it is located the ancient burying ground of the family, the graves there containing the bodies of the original John, as well as a number of his descendants. His marriage probably occurred in England, and his wife, Mercy Easton, bore him four children: Robert, probably born in Westerly, died about 1787; Stephen, born April 20, 1716, died at sea; George, born May 28, 1719, died unmarried; and David, born Sept. 13, 1721. John Moore died in September, 1753, his wife having died the previous year.

Robert Moore, eldest son of John and Mercy (Easton) Moore, lived on the farm adjoining that of his father, and for a number of years kept a tavern in an old house now demolished. This old house stood on the site of the homestead now occupied by Robert I. Moore, in Richmond, R. I. Robert married Hannah James, daughter of William James, and they had nine children: Mary; Miriam; Lucy; Sarah; Annie; George; Hannah; Gideon, who died young; and Robert.

George Moore, born Dec. 15, 1752, married Waity Greene (born June 1, 1755, and died May 6, 1817), a lineal descendant of John Coggeshall, the first president of the Rhode Island Colony. It is said that George Moore was a soldier during the Revolutionary war, and that he was the father of fourteen children, all born in Richmond, R. I., viz.: Anna, born March 10, 1776, died March 12, 1787; Henry, born Feb. 15, 1778, died in September, 1837; James, born March 11, 1780, died May 27, 1829; John; Daniel, born April 21, 1784, died Aug. 22, 1830; Clark, born March 11, 1786, died Jan. 31, 1856; George, born Feb. 4, 1788, died Jan. 22, 1861; William W., born Jan. 16, 1790, died Dec. 18, 1870; Waity, born March 7, 1792; Alice, born April 18, 1794; an infant, born Oct. 4, 1796, died Oct. 12, 1796; Anna, born Sept. 2, 1798, died Dec. 3, 1882; Amos, born July 2, 1800, died April 6, 1878; and Oliver Greene, born June 17, 1803, died Jan. 27, 1806.

John Moore, born April 18, 1782, died in Eastford, Conn., June 28, 1859. In 1805 he married his first wife, Catherine Reynolds, daughter of Judge Jesse Reynolds, of Richmond, R. I., who died Nov. 8, 1827, aged forty-one years. His second wife was formerly Lovisa Havens, of Eastford, whom he married Feb. 22, 1829. The four children of John and Catherine (Reynolds) Moore were: Waity, born Jan. 8, 1808, married Stephen Fitts, Jr.; George J., born July 19, 1810, died in Louisville, Ky., where he was for many years a merchant; Jesse, born July 25, 1814, was for nearly forty years a prosperous wholesale merchant in Louisville, Ky., and died in Worcester, Mass., in 1898; and Ransom, born in 1816, died in 1820.

OLIVER H. PERRY (deceased), for several years judge of the Probate Court, and one of Woodstock's honored citizens, was born July 7, 1821, in Greenfield, Mass., and died July 20, 1896, in South Woodstock, Windham county.

(I) Daniel Perry, grandfather of Judge Perry, was born in Rehoboth, Mass., and died in Woodstock. He married Judith Hunt, of Rehoboth, Mass., and to this union was born the following family: John, a farmer who lived and died in Woodstock Valley, and was twice married; Otis, father of Judge Perry; Daniel, married and lived in Woodstock Valley; Judith, married Abiel Fox, grandfather of John O. Fox, of Putnam; Sally, married Charles Smith, lives in Woodstock; Nancy, married Newman Walker, of Eastford. Daniel Perry located in Woodstock when still a young man; he there became the owner of a valuable farm in Woodstock Valley and engaged in the breeding of choice stock which he shipped to the West Indies.

(II) Otis Perry, father of Judge Perry, was born Dec. 29, 1782, in Woodstock, and died May 22, 1863, in Woodstock Valley. He married Polly Carpenter, a daughter of Chester Carpenter, of

West Woodstock, born Sept. 16, 1795, in Woodstock, who died Feb. 20, 1872, in Woodstock Valley. Four children were born to this union: Mary Walker, born Jan. 13, 1820, in Greenfield, Mass. She married (first) Sept. 16, 1839, Chester A. Paine, of Woodstock, son of Abraham Paine, of West Woodstock. Chester Paine died May 24, 1862, aged forty-four years. Their children were, Lydia M., born Nov. 25, 1840, who married Albert Kenyon; Charles A., born May 12, 1844, who married Martha Carpenter; Mary E., born April 15, 1847, who married Perry M. Wilson, who served in the Civil war and later became postmaster of Putnam, where he died; John C., born Aug. 15, 1849, who married Fanny Stetson, of Woodstock, and is now living in Bridgeport, where he is connected with the Wheeler and Wilson Sewing Machine Co. Mary W. Perry married (second) Nov. 16, 1870, Waldo Phillips, of Woodstock Valley, and he died Sept. 18, 1899, aged eighty years, leaving no issue. Oliver H. was the second child and eldest son of Otis Perry. Gilbert the third child, was born Dec. 6, 1823, and died Sept. 4, 1830. Charles Otis, youngest child of Otis Perry, was born May 19, 1825, and died Jan. 27, 1829.

Otis Perry spent his life in West Woodstock, with the exception of a brief period in Greenfield, Mass., and was engaged in the occupations of farming and milling. For a number of years he operated the Hiscox mills in Woodstock Valley, later disposing of them to Alba Hiscox. Mr. Perry then took up farming in Woodstock Valley, where his death occurred. He was a very successful man for his day.

In religious matters, Mr. Perry was a member of the Woodstock Valley Advent Church. After giving his firm support to the old line Whig party he became a staunch Republican. In disposition he was quiet and unassuming but always had a pleasant word for everyone, and this combined with his genial manner made him many friends.

(III) Judge Oliver H. Perry was born in Greenfield, Mass., where his father was located for a short time. When Oliver was two years old the family returned to Woodstock, and at a suitable age, he began to attend the district school of the town. Later he was given the opportunity of a course at Wilbraham, Mass., academy, thus completing his education, which was a good English one. After leaving school he returned to the home farm, where he remained until 1854, with the exception of two years which he spent as a clerk for Otis Hiscox, in Woodstock Valley.

In 1844, Judge Perry's father retired from active labor and gave him a deed to the homestead, in consideration of the filial care bestowed upon his parents in their declining years. This farm was located in Woodstock Valley. In 1854, Judge Perry sold this property and removed to New York City, where he embarked in the flour and feed business. For eleven years he was a member of the

firm of Phillips & Perry, his partner being his brother-in-law, Waldo Phillips. This firm had a contract with the government to furnish provisions to the army during the Civil war. In 1865 Mr. Perry disposed of his interests in the firm to Mr. Phillips and returned to Woodstock. Purchasing the home in South Woodstock, he spent there the remaining years of his useful life, becoming largely identified with the interests and affairs of the town.

Judge Perry's latter years were not given exclusively to the management of his farm, public affairs having claimed much of his time and attention. In many ways he was well equipped for the duties of a public career and most efficiently filled every office entrusted to him. Judge Perry was a notable exception to the ordinary politician: his desire was faithfully to perform the duties of each position with the best results to his constituents, irrespective of personal aggrandizement. His reputation for ability, prudence and fidelity to public trusts, led to his selection as executor and administrator, as referee and commissioner on some of the most considerable estates in the community brought before the public for final adjustment.

Always a student, Judge Perry's mind expanded with study; in addition to a wide personal knowledge he became thoroughly familiar with all current town matters, and was not satisfied until he had also absorbed every detail of the legal phases pertaining to the same. Judge Perry was the repository for general knowledge of affairs of a local nature.

In early days Judge Perry was an avowed Abolitionist and always voted the Whig ticket. Upon the organization of the Republican party Judge Perry became an ardent and staunch supporter of it, never flinching when called upon to assist in sustaining men and measures of which his judgment did not approve. At the beginning of his political career he was appointed justice of the peace, and in 1854 represented his town in the Connecticut House of Representatives. Again he served for several years as justice of the peace, and in 1880 was made Judge of the Probate Court. This position he filled with efficiency and honor until 1891, when the age limit of seventy years came upon him, and he was compelled to resign.

Judge Perry's religious belief was that of the Second Adventist Church; he attended the Advent Church, of East Woodstock, which he liberally supported.

Judge Perry was identified with many of the business interests of the community, and was a director of the Putnam Savings Bank, a position he held until his death. He was also one of the original incorporators of the Woodstock Creamery Corporation, and served as treasurer until his death. Judge Perry was also one of the committee chosen to purchase and erect the building of the Woodstock Agricultural Association, of which he was for years president and treasurer. His ability and judg-

ment made his services invaluable in the settlement of estates and in kindred offices of trust.

Judge Perry's death occurred July 20, 1896, and his funeral was largely attended, all classes being anxious to pay tribute to his memory. Both before and since his death no one could be found to say an unkind word relative to the life and works of this venerable and honored man. Many of his largest charities were hidden from the public gaze, and no one ever applied to him in vain for help. His fund of sympathy was large, he drew upon it freely in support of the troubles of others, and endeared himself to all.

On Sept. 24, 1844, Judge Perry married Miss Mary Ann Underwood, born March 6, 1821. Mrs. Perry was a daughter of Deacon Laban Underwood, of West Woodstock, and Sally (Phillips) Underwood, of West Woodstock. No children were born to this marriage. The home of Judge and Mrs. Perry was not without young life, however, for these good people adopted Sarah Hiscox, a daughter of Mrs. Perry's sister. Sarah married Charles Davis, one of the leading grocers and meat merchants in Hartford, Conn. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis.

S. TRACY NOBLE. No family in Rockville, Tolland Co., Conn., can trace a clearer ancestry than can S. Tracy Noble, who since 1865 has been a resident of that city and for many years has held a very responsible position with one of its greatest industrial companies.

Mr. Noble is a representative of the seventh generation of this old family, his direct line being through Leonard, Henry, Matthew (3), Matthew (2), Matthew (1), to (I) Thomas Noble, the progenitor, who was born as early as 1632, probably in England. He was admitted as an inhabitant of Boston, Mass., in 1653, and in that year removed to Springfield, Mass. Thence as early as 1669 he moved to Westfield, Mass., where he was made a freeman in 1681, and in that year united with the church. Thomas Noble was a farmer and in the winter worked at tailoring. On Nov. 1, 1660, he married Hannah Warriner, born in Springfield in 1643, who united with the church in Westfield, in 1680. Mr. Noble died in 1704.

(II) Matthew Noble, son of Thomas, born about 1668, married Dec. 10, 1690, Hannah, born Feb. 21, 1672, daughter of Thomas and Constant (Hawes) Dewey. Both Mr. and Mrs. Noble joined the Westfield church in 1728. It is said that Matthew Noble was the first white man who went to reside in Sheffield, Mass., passing the first winter with no associates except the Indians. He returned to Westfield in the spring, and in June, along with his daughter, again went to Sheffield, she being the first white woman to go into the town. Mr. Noble died in Sheffield about 1744, and Mrs. Noble died after July 9, 1745.

(III) Matthew Noble (2), son of Matthew, born

Sept. 9, 1698, married (first) May 31, 1720, Joanna, born March 4, 1697, in Springfield, daughter of Samuel and Abigail (Brooks) Stebbins. Both Mr. and Mrs. Noble united with the church in Westfield, in 1728. Mr. Noble served a number of years as selectman, was moderator of the town meeting in 1740 and a representative at the General Court in 1757. He was a saddler, tanner and cord wainer. His death occurred Aug. 8, 1771, and his wife passed away in 1763.

(IV) Matthew Noble (3), son of Matthew (2), born July 27, 1736, in Westfield, married Sept. 23, 1758, Lydia Eager, born June 20, 1740, daughter of Capt. Benjamin and Abigail (Johnson) Eager, of Shrewsbury, Mass. Matthew (3) resided on the farm of his father in Westfield. Mr. Noble was a tanner and saddler. He died Aug. 30, 1804, and his widow passed away Sept. 28, 1811.

(V) Henry Noble, son of Matthew (3), born Dec. 17, 1781, in Westfield, Mass., married (first) Dec. 5, 1802, Betsey Dewey, born Oct. 25, 1781, daughter of Benjamin and Rhoda (Loomis) Dewey. This wife bore one child, Eliza, who died in infancy. Betsey (Dewey) Noble died March 7, 1807. Henry Noble married (second) March 9, 1809, Sally Fowler, born June 5, 1784, daughter of Deacon Ebenezer and Sally (Noble) Fowler, of Westfield. Mr. Noble died May 23 or 24, 1850, and Mrs. Noble passed away Nov. 27, 1863. The children of this marriage were: Henry, born July 19, 1810; Leonard, born June 15, 1813; Nathan, born Nov. 9, 1815, a whipmaker, who lived in Westfield, Mass., many years; Codad, born Dec. 13, 1821, drowned at Westfield, Mass., May 15, 1827.

(VI) Leonard Noble, son of Henry, and father of Samuel Tracy Noble of Rockville, was born in Massachusetts, and became more of a traveler than many of his ancestors. In October, 1830, he went to Tolland, Conn., where he entered a shop to learn the blacksmith trade, remaining until August, 1832. He finished his apprenticeship with Albert Dart and Cyrus White in Rockville. He was one of the skilled workmen who forged the huge bolts and iron stays in the walls of Adams' stone mill at Rockville, and his trade took him through Tolland county, where he worked at various places until he migrated West.

It was about 1835 when Leonard Noble left Rockville and went to Collinsville, and in October of the following year he started in the direction of the setting sun. With his family went Manton H. Hammond and family, Mr. Hammond being his brother-in-law. They made the entire trip with horse and carriage, for it was necessary in those days to make such journeys by conveyances of some kind, and weeks were consumed in transit.

Manton Hammond settled near Detroit, but Mr. Noble went as far West as Chicago. He found the extreme sandy soil not attractive, and although land was offered him at a few dollars per acre, he was not gifted with second sight and turned his back