

PART FIRST.

GAZETTEER

OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, Vt.
1783-1889.

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AUTHOR OF WAYNE, ONTARIO, SENECA, CAYUGA, TOMPKINS, ONONDAGA, MADISON, CORTLAND, CHEMUNG, SCHUYLER, STEUBEN, ORLEANS, HERKIMER, CHENANGO, NIAGARA, ONEIDA, MONROE, GENESEE, SARATOGA, MONTGOMERY AND FULTON, ALBANY AND SCHENECTADY, RENSSELAER, WASHINGTON, WYOMING, LEWIS, COLUMBIA, SULLIVAN, SCHOHARIE, OTSEGO, ULSTER, CHAUTAUQUA, ST. LAWRENCE, BROOME AND TIOGA, CATTARAGUS, ALLEGANY, AND OTHER COUNTY DIRECTORIES IN NEW YORK STATE, AND ERIE AND CRAWFORD COUNTIES, THE BRADFORD OIL DISTRICT IN PENNSYLVANIA, BENNINGTON, RUTLAND, ADDISON, CHITTENDEN, FRANKLIN AND GRAND ISLE, LAMOILLE AND ORLEANS, WINDSOR, WINDHAM, CALEDONIA AND ESSEX, AND ORANGE COUNTIES IN VERMONT, BERKSHIRE COUNTY, MASS., AND CHESHIRE AND GRAFTON COUNTIES, N. H.

PERMANENT OFFICE,

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

“ He that hath much to do, will do something wrong, and of that wrong must suffer the consequences ; and if it were possible that he should always act rightly, yet when such numbers are to judge of his conduct, the bad will censure and obstruct him by malevolence, and the good sometimes by mistake.”—SAMUEL JOHNSON.

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Nettie E., born February 23, 1860. G. Eugene Moody married Alma Huse, March 8, 1866. He is one of the large proprietors of cultivated real estate, and a bold speculator in all kinds of property. He holds the positions of representative and selectman.

Dexter May, a pioneer of Berlin, settled at a very early date, before 1804, on the Winooski river, on the first farm below Montpelier Junction. He was the father of twelve children, and died on the farm at the advanced age of eighty-five years. His son Silas, born on the homestead, July 13, 1804, was educated in the common schools, was an extensive reader, and accumulated quite a library, and by his course of reading and habits of close observation acquired a fund of practical knowledge. September 1, 1833, he married Betsey Farrar, of Moretown, and settled at once on a farm in Montpelier, on the Middlesex road, about half a mile west of the State House. In May, 1836, he removed to Waterbury and settled on the Stowe road, one mile north of the Center village, where he resided until his death, July 21, 1859. He was a man of influence and highly respected. In politics he was an "old line Whig," and held the offices of selectman and justice of the peace. He was an active member of the Methodist church, and a liberal contributor to all its interests. Mrs. May survived her husband until 1873, aged seventy-one years. Their children were Oscar W.; Sarah, who died in infancy; Josephine, who married George N. Greely, and resides in this town on a farm on Gregg hill; and S. Aurora, who married Orlow W. Bickford, and resides in Kansas. Oscar W. May, born July 22, 1834, spent his time, like other farmers' boys, at work a portion of the year, but received a good practical education at the district schools. When about eighteen years of age he commenced teaching in the common schools, which he continued with fine success for six successive winters. January 11, 1860, he married Emma A. Atkins, of Waterbury, and bought of the heirs of the estate the homestead, which he still owns. He is a Republican, and has been in office constantly the last twenty-five years. He was a selectman during the war for the Union, and served in that capacity about five years, lister sixteen years, and constable the last eleven consecutive years.

Thomas Montgomery was born in Duxbury. His father emigrated from Scotland to America, and settled in Duxbury at a very early date in the history of that town. Thomas, before mentioned, married Lucy Blanchard and settled in his native town, where he always resided. He was a mason and farmer, and reared a large family, dying at the age of about eighty-six years. His son John, born in Duxbury, November 19, 1794, married Thyphena Towle, and settled on the homestead. In 1836 he removed to Waterbury and first settled on a farm on Perry hill. About 1873 he removed to a fine farm at the mouth of Cotton brook, on Waterbury river, where he died May 7, 1887, aged over ninety-two years. Mr. Montgomery was a Democrat, and held several offices of trust. He possessed a very retentive memory, which remained unimpaired until the close of his long life. He was highly respected

as a citizen and neighbor, and on account of his excellent judgment was sought as a jurymen in the trial of important cases at law. His children were Lucy (Mrs. Samuel Lewis), John E., George R., who married Sylvia Farr, and resides on a farm in Waterbury, Mary A. (Mrs. Dr. Huse), Eliza (Mrs. Silas Perry), deceased, and Charles C., who married Carrie Lewis, is a farmer, and at present resides on the estate of his father.

William Wells, born in Waterbury, December 14, 1837, entered the service as a private soldier in Co. C, 1st Regt. Vt. Cav., in 1861, was promoted to first lieutenant, captain, major, colonel, brevet brigadier-general, brigadier-general, and brevet major-general of volunteers, and was mustered out of service January 16, 1866. He represented Waterbury in the legislature in 1865 and 1866; was adjutant and inspector-general of Vermont from October 1, 1866, to May 1, 1872, when he was appointed collector of customs for the District of Vermont, which position he held until after Grover Cleveland was inaugurated President, in 1885. He is a member of the firm of Wells, Richardson & Co., wholesale druggists of Burlington.

David C. Sheple was born in Massachusetts, December 25, 1789, and in 1814 came to Calais, Vt. He married Phebe R. Bancroft, who was born in Petersham, Mass., April 19, 1789. Four children were born to them—three sons and one daughter. In 1828 they moved to Waterbury, having purchased a large farm known as the Gen. Peck farm, on which he remained until his death. He was in the mercantile business in Waterbury several years with A. S. Richardson, the firm being Richardson & Sheple. Mr. Sheple died October 8, 1864, and Mrs. Sheple January 16, 1862.

Curtis N. Arms was born in Duxbury, December 31, 1821. In 1837, at the age of sixteen, he came to Waterbury and engaged as a clerk in the employ of D. & W. Carpenter. In 1846 he formed a partnership with J. G. Stimson, which continued six years. He commenced business alone in 1852, and continued until impaired health made it necessary to rest in 1865. He sold to, and was succeeded by, Wyman & Smith. About 1864 he commenced wholesale business, and retired from the firm of Arms & Haines in May, 1887, after an active business career of fifty years. He was town treasurer twelve years before and during the war period, is now a director of Waterbury National bank, and treasurer of Winooski Valley Agricultural society. Although he has never entered the political field for promotion, he has often been called by his fellow townsmen to positions of responsibility and trust, and has discharged these duties with fidelity and good judgment.

Gideon Ricker and his son Gideon came to Waterbury from Waterborough, Me., in the spring of 1839, and settled on Ricker Mountain, so-named in honor of Joseph Ricker, a brother of Gideon, Sr., who was the first permanent settler of the neighborhood. Gideon Ricker continued to reside on the place where he settled until his death, April 11, 1862, at the age of eighty-eight years. He and his son were active and energetic business men, and