Biographical.

Natural Sciences, the Fine Arts Academy, and other kindred associations. He is an Episcopalian, and a member of St. John's Church.

Michael Mesmer.—Among the emigrants from Alsace, in the year 1828, was the father of the subject of this sketch and his family. They sailed from Havre for New York, came thence by canal to Buffalo, and settled on a small farm of fifty acres, situated on Main street just beyond Amherst street. He resided there two years and then returned to Europe to secure a patrimony. In 1832 he came again to Buffalo, and the following year purchased a farm in the town of Lancaster, where he died in 1863, aged eighty-one years.

Michael Mesmer was born in Strasbourg, Alsace, on the 31st of October, 1815. He began his long life in Buffalo as second porter in the Buffalo House, on the corner of Main and Seneca streets. From that humble beginning, he has raised himself to a station in the foremost rank of the leading Franco-Germans of this country. After one year of faithful service in the Buffalo House, the young man engaged in similar service at the City Hotel, junction of canal bridge and Commercial street, where he remained eighteen months. He then took a trip to New York city, working his way as cook on a canal boat. There he was disappointed in finding the employment he had hoped for, and being without money, he was unable to get away. In this dilemma he met by chance a man who had been a friend of his father, to whom he made himself known, and who gave him ten five-franc pieces. This friend would not tell the young man his name, nor has the latter ever known who it was that befriended him at such an opportune time. The money thus obtained enabled young Mesmer to reach Syracuse, where he found employment in the old Syracuse House, then kept by Daniel Comstock. He remained there three years, carrying the mails from Syracuse to Oswego on horseback during two winters of this period, making the trip one way each day—thirty miles.

In the fall of 1836, when he was twenty-one years old, Mr. Mesmer found himself in the possession of $400. With this capital he returned to Buffalo and entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, Joseph Sour, in the wood-turning business. A little later he began driving teams for Theodore Burwell and afterwards worked for Alanson Palmer, the then Buffalo millionaire, whom Mr. Mesmer placed in the county poor house while superintendent of that institution in 1863. He afterwards worked for General Burt one year, and then three years for Letitia Evans as carriage driver and gardener.

By industry and economy, Mr. Mesmer had by this time accumulated quite a fund in cash, which he applied towards the purchase of sixty-four acres of land in the town of Lancaster; but he did not feel contented on a farm, and when what is now the Erie railroad was begun in the town, running near the place, Mr. Mesmer hired out to the company as a carpenter, at fourteen shillings a day. Mr. Mesmer leveled the wooden ties, fitted the wooden stringers thereon and fastened the half-inch iron strip thereto, which combination constituted the track from Town Line to Buffalo.

In the year 1841 Mr. Mesmer again came to Buffalo, where he engaged as clerk in the flour, feed and grain store of Horace Wells, on Main street. He afterwards purchased the store, added groceries to the stock, and continued there until November, 1871. He then, in company with Jacob J. Weller and Charles E. Brown, bought the large cabinet manufactory on Elm street and also the large furniture store on Main street from Thompson Hersce. In 1872 he turned the store over to a young and faithful clerk, who afterwards removed the business to No. 50 West Eagle street, near Franklin.

The cabinet business was successfully conducted until January 1st, 1882, when Mr. Mesmer retired from active business and now lives in well-earned enjoyment of a competence, and surrounded by his family and a circle of friends whose respect and confidence must be gratifying to the recipient.

Mr. Mesmer has never been a seeker after public office or honors, but those who know him best have called on him to fill several positions of trust. In 1861 he was elected Superintendent of the Poor, which office he held three years, and he was Park Commissioner for eight years. He has been a director of the German Insurance Company of Buffalo since its establishment in 1867, and a director of the Western Savings Bank since 1865.

On the 31st of December, 1840, Mr. Mesmer was married to Miss Barbara Knauber, daughter of John Knauber, a farmer of the town of Lancaster. Eight children have been born to them, five of whom are now living, as follows:—Mrs. Catharine Lipp, of Dayton, Ohio; John Mesmer, who has been superintendent of the Citizens' Gas Works since 1875; Louis Mesmer, paying teller in the
Erie County Savings Bank since 1873, and the Misses Utilea and Lonisa Mesmer. The names of the three children deceased were Martin, Magdalena and Michael.

In 1871 Mr. Mesmer erected his pleasant home on the corner of Prospect avenue and Virginia street, where he now resides.

In 1853 he demolished the old flour store building, and erected a splendid four-story building on the site known as No. 347 Main street.

SYLVESTER FREDERICK MIXER.—Judge Nathan Mixer, formerly of Forestville, Chautauqua county, where he lived more than sixty years, was well known as a man of prominence and distinguished abilities. He was Judge for many years and represented his district in the Assembly several terms. He was of English descent and his immediate ancestors settled in New England. One of his children was the subject of this sketch. Sylvester Frederick Mixer was born at Morrisville, Madison county, N. Y., on the 27th of December, 1815, and was brought by his parents to Forestville during his infancy. He was one of a family of fourteen children, all of whom lived to maturity. Judge Mixer gave his son a liberal education; he graduated from the Medical Department of Yale College in 1841. He was an ardent student and was imbued with an earnest desire to attain a high rank in his profession; this led to the further study of medicine in the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, from which he received the degree of M. D., in 1847. Dr. Mixer had in the meantime, begun practice in Buffalo, having commenced a few months after leaving Yale College. From that time onward he rapidly built up a practice as successful as it was satisfactory to himself and his friends. Dr. Mixer was elected President of the Buffalo Medical Society in 1852; he was also in the same year made a member of the American Medical Association, over many strong competitors for that honor. From the year 1852, he was one of the prominent members of the Erie County Medical Society. Between the years 1858 and 1874, he was one of the attending physicians of the Buffalo General Hospital, and from that time until his death was a member of its Consulting Board.

On the 23d of February, 1853, Dr. Mixer married Mary Elizabeth Knowlton, daughter of Dr. Perrin Knowlton, of Cincinnati. Mrs. Mixer's mother's name was Elizabeth Carter, of New York city. Dr. Perrin Knowlton is still living in the West, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. He belongs to an honored family, one of his ancestors being Colonel Thomas Knowlton, of Revolutionary fame. Dr. and Mrs. Mixer's married life was productive of all the domestic happiness that ever falls to the lot of humanity, and their home (for many years after their marriage, on Swan street and later on Virginia street,) was the abode of a family blest in all its relations, and the social resort of a wide circle of friends. Four children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Mixer, two only of whom are now living, Frederick and Knowlton, both of whom have reached years of young manhood and fill as far as it is possible to do, the vacancy caused by their father's death. Minnie Mixer, a beautiful and accomplished daughter, lost her life in the railroad catastrophe at Ashtabula, Ohio, December 29, 1876, a blow from which her parents never recovered and which made a marked impression upon the mind and demeanor of Dr. Mixer to the day of his death. Previous to the deplorable event, he had always entertained sincere religious convictions and was an earnest Episcopalian, but he had not formally united as communicant with the church, but after that event he was publicly confirmed, giving evidence of a firmly grounded Christian faith—a faith that never after wavered.

Dr. Mixer lived until 1862 before he experienced his first illness, from a disease that was destined to end his days twenty-one years later, but during the latter named period he was able to give almost constant attention to his large practice until the winter of 1882, when his failing health prompted him to make a trip to California. He returned in June, 1883, not materially benefited, though his health somewhat improved between that time and his decease. The few remaining months allotted to him on earth were passed at his home on Virginia street, in Buffalo, in the enjoyment of constant intercourse with his family and the immunity from labor which he had so fully earned.

Dr. Mixer died at three o'clock on Sunday morning, September 16th, 1883. The obsequies occurred on the Tuesday following, at Trinity Church, and were attended by many members of the Erie County Medical Society in a body, besides a large concourse of friends and relatives. The service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. L. Van Bokkelen, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Gnainger. In the course of his discourse the Rev. Doctor said:—
"I may be permitted to bear my testimony to our departed friend, as he was best known to me, as a gentleman of dignity and culture, earnest and faithful in his duties as an officer and member of the church. He obeyed the injunction of Solomon, 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.' He had no fear of death, no anxious thoughts. He knew that his course was run, and with calmness he moved on toward the prize of his high calling in Christ Jesus. He was never more lovely, courteous, considerate and kind; never more gentle and humble than during the last week of his life temporal. He trusted in God and was not forsaken."

In a carefully prepared and judicious obituary of Dr. Mixer, which was printed in the Buffalo Courier, we find the following deserved tribute:—

"A citizen so well known and so highly respected as Dr. Mixer was, might easily have taken a conspicuous part in public affairs; but he had absolutely no ambition outside of his profession, which yielded him a handsome income and enabled him to accumulate for the loved ones left, a comfortable competency. He was an earnest Republican, but naturally a thorough reformer, and habitually took a lively interest in all political and other movements having the public good in view. Take him all in all, he was an excellent type of the ideal American citizen—a man of simple goodness, but so modest and unassuming withal that his biography could not have much of eulogy in it without doing violence to his wishes, as known to those who knew him best, and they are those that loved him best."

A meeting of the Erie County Medical Society was held to take action upon the death of Dr. Mixer, at which were expressed sentiments of the most profound respect for the deceased and of sympathy for his stricken family, an appropriate series of resolutions were drawn up, testifying to the regard and esteem in which Dr. Mixer was held by his professional brethren. He was a man whose loss will be long felt by the entire community.

AUGUSTUS C. MOORE, the subject of this sketch, was born in Fabius, Onondaga county, N. Y., on the 31st of March, 1799. He was in business at Sahucoit, Onondaga county, until 1831, when he removed to Buffalo and at once invested in real estate, which engaged his attention during the remainder of his life. He was a man of unusual business ability; a great reader and of good judgment in all things; straightforward in all his dealings and of remarkable decision of character, he left a lasting impression upon the community in which he lived.

Mr. Moore died at Buffalo on the 17th day of August, 1853, and was buried at Forest Lawn. He was a devoted member of the Universalist Church and by his large gifts for charitable and benevolent purposes, he aided materially many of the most prominent and worthy of our public institutions.

JOHN F. MOULTON was born on the 3d of February, 1815, at Beverly, Mass., the native place of his parents. His father, Charles Moulton, was a son of Captain Tarbox Moulton, a well-known sea captain and ship owner, who lost three of his vessels in the French war of 1812. His mother was Abby Cole, a member of an old and respected family of New England.

The subject of this sketch received an excellent English education in the schools of his native place, and at the age of eighteen years engaged in the general mercantile business with his father. This partnership continued three years, when John F. Moulton, then twenty-one years of age, removed to Battle Creek, Mich., and entered into mercantile business. Three years later, when but twenty-four years old, Mr. Moulton became one of the chief organizers of the Bank of Battle Creek, and was elected a director of that institution. Since that time Mr. Moulton's career has been a wonderful example of what may be accomplished by energy, activity and business sagacity of the highest order. In the same year that the City Bank of Battle Creek was organized, Mr. Moulton was chosen as alderman of the city and in 1867 was elected President of the Battle Creek Gas Company.

About this time Mr. Moulton interested himself largely in the Peninsula Railroad, now known as the Chicago & Lake Huron railroad, which is the western connection of the Grand Trunk road, this was followed by his securing the contract for building the Buffalo & Jamestown railroad, when he removed to this city. The road was completed in 1875, soon after which event Mr. Moulton was appointed its General Manager, and in 1878 was elected its President, an office which he has filled with signal ability ever since. The cost of the road was $3,300,000, and under Mr. Moulton's vigorous management has shown one of the best paying roads in Western New York.

In May, 1881, Mr. Moulton was elected President of the Buffalo Electric Light Company, which office he still holds. He was also elected Vice-President of the United States Concave Spring Company and the United States Equipment Company, in which offices his rare executive ability was still
further demonstrated. Mr. Moulton has also been largely interested in Colorado mining operations. Mr. Moulton is a member of the heavy coal and lumber firm of Buffalo, Adams, Moulton & Co., in which his son, Frank T. Moulton is also engaged. It is one of the leading firms in the city in their lines of business.

Mr. Moulton married Miss Lucy O. Giles, of Beverly, Mass., who is a descendant of an old and respected New England family. Three children have been born to them—Frank T., already mentioned, and two daughters.

In his business intercourse with men, Mr. Moulton is prompt and magnetic in manner, courteous to all, bold and vigorous in counsel and decision upon important measures, almost unerring in his judgment of men and projected enterprises and of sterling integrity. These are some of the prominent qualities that have enabled him, while yet a young man, to stand in the front rank of the great army of Buffalo business firms.

Charles Davis Norton.—In a biographic sketch and graceful tribute to the man whose name appears above, written by Hon. Sherman S. Rogers and read before the Buffalo Historical Society, February 15, 1871, he said:

"There are some men whose individuality is so marked that neither absence nor death can efface or greatly stunt the impression which it has made—men the mention of whose names alone, recalls to mind the dead and gone with such power that they seem to stand before us in their bodily presence. We hear their voices, we look in at their eyes and feel the grasp of their hands. Such a man was Charles D. Norton."

This brief tribute to the writer's dead friend is as truthful as it is beautiful.

Charles D. Norton was born at Hartford, Conn., on the 20th of November, 1820. His father was Joseph G. Norton, a shipping merchant of Hartford, Conn., who was born in Hebron, Conn.; he was a descendant of one of the two families that first settled the island of Martha's Vineyard—hardy, honest, sea-faring families. In the year 1827 Joseph G. Norton removed with his family to Black Rock, where he embarked in the dry goods business with Judah Bliss; the firm name was Norton & Bliss. Three years later Mr. Norton removed to Buffalo, where he died in 1844. He is remembered as a man of fine personal appearance, social in his habits, courteous, genial and worthy as a citizen. The maiden name of his mother, who was descended from Puritan ancestry, was Lucretia Huntington. She was the daughter of Dr. Joseph Huntington, a Congregationalist minister in Coventry, Conn., a brother of Samuel Huntington, signor of the Declaration of Independence and Governor of Connecticut. Dr. Huntington was a graduate of Yale College, of high intellectual endowments and fine personal appearance. He died in 1794. One of his sons was Samuel Huntington, second Governor of Ohio and afterwards Chief Justice of that State.

Regarding Charles D. Norton's youth and his educational advantages, we will quote from Mr. Rogers' paper, already referred to, as follows:

"From his mother's family Mr. Norton doubtless derived in a large measure his superior intellectual endowments and his refined and scholarly tastes. His education in Buffalo began at the old academy (now the building now occupied by the Hospital of the Sisters of Charity) then taught by Theodorus Burwell, Esq. Mr. Burwell continued to teach but a short time after Charles' entrance to the academy, and as the school broke up on Mr. Burwell's departure, Charles entered a select school taught by Mr. Lathrop, a law student, in the basement of the First Presbyterian church. Charles was regarded as a fine scholar in both schools, and in the latter received the highest price for scholarship. Upon the death of Mr. Lathrop, or shortly thereafter, the old academy was reopened by Mr. Silas Kingsley. Here Charles was again entered, but Mr. Kingsley having resigned his position not long after, and Mr. Cyrus M. Fay, who had come to Buffalo as Mr. Kingsley's assistant, having opened a private school in the basement of the old church, Charles resumed his studies with him and was by him fitted for college. Mr. Fay was, I believe, a graduate of Union, and probably directed the choice of young Norton to that institution, where he was entered as a sophomore in 1836. He graduated with honor in the winter of 1840."

From one of his college mates comes this testimony of his attainments and bearing while in that institution:

"As a college youth he was marked for a glowing enthusiasm and a manly bearing so combined as to win both affection and respect. He was prompt in his manner, open and genial in his expression, jovial in his temperament, with a mingling of wit and humor, which never infringed upon the domain of refined taste, nor invaded the precincts of sacred things. As a student he stood high throughout his college course; and I think he was for a time at the head of his class on the merit roll of the college."
GEORGE PALMER.
In the winter of 1839, Mr. Norton began the study of law in the office of Horatio Shumway, which he continued until the autumn of 1841, when he was attacked by what was supposed to be a violent hemorrhage of the lungs, confining him to his house from November until the following May. His condition of ill health continued and became quite alarming; he seemed to be the victim of wasting consumption. In October, 1842, he sailed for Florida, where he remained under skillful treatment until June, 1843; he returned greatly benefited, resumed his law study and in the autumn of that year was admitted to the bar. Thereafter Mr. Norton, although not very robust in health, was able by constant care to attend to the duties of life during most of his remaining years.

Mr. Norton began his professional life just at the commencement of the famous struggle which resulted in the election of Mr. Polk, the annexation of Texas, the Mexican war and attendant events. Mr. Norton was a Whig in his political beliefs, and he took an active and earnest part in this struggle, becoming at once noted for his power and eloquence on the rostrum; but the condition of his health was such that he could not devote his energies to a field of labor wherein he could undoubtedly have earned the highest honors. In 1849, he was elected by the Whigs to the office of City Attorney. In 1851 he was elected Surrogate of Erie county, which office he held for three years; it is needless to state that both offices were most ably and honorably filled. In February, 1854, Mr. Norton was elected President of the Young Men’s Association, of which he had long been one of the most useful members; he delivered its historical address in 1861, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Association; he was also one of the first commissioners of its real estate and held that position at the time of his death. From the first organization of the Buffalo Historical Society, Mr. Norton took the liveliest interest in its work; he was one of its founders and its first recording secretary, and from that time until his death, the society held few meetings at which he was not present. Its work was peculiarly suited to his tastes and was greatly aided by his efforts.

In October, 1851, Mr. Norton married Miss Jeanette Phelps, daughter of Oliver Phelps, of Canandaigua. Two children were born of this marriage—Porter and Charles.

In the fall of 1854 Mr. Norton was placed in nomination by the Republican party for re-election as Surrogate, but the Democrats were successful in the county that year. Of his legal career from that time until he was again called into public life, Mr. Rogers wrote as follows:—

"** Until again called to public life, Mr. Norton pursued the practice of the law at Buffalo with austerus and substantial success. He sought, however, the quieter walks of the profession, and seemed to avoid the labors and responsibilities of an advocate. He was a painstaking and diligent man of business, giving his attention to all its details and neglecting nothing that a sensitive regard to duty required of him."

In the summer of 1865, President Johnson appointed Mr. Norton Collector of Customs for the port of Buffalo; this honor was bestowed entirely without solicitation on the part of the incumbent, and the important duties of the office were discharged by him with fidelity in all its details, until his death. This event occurred on the 11th of April, 1867, when he was but forty-seven years old and just as he had apparently entered upon the best and most successful period of his life. He was mourned not only by relatives and intimate friends, but by the entire city where he had passed most of his life. In summing up the prominent characteristics of Mr. Norton, his eulogist says:

"Mr. Norton’s character was one of remarkable symmetry. Its defects were not many and so slight that they did not mar its beauty. His life was in the best sense exemplary. In youth and early manhood he sowed no foul seed from which to gather bitter sheaves in later years. In all the elements of true manhood he had strengthened to the last. ** Socially his gifts were superlative. It would hardly be too much to say that in this respect he had no peer among us. His mind was enriched by a varied and generous culture, but he did not possess the slightest tinge of pedantry. He enjoyed literary labor, and the triumphs of the library were more attractive to him than those of the bar. He found heavy burdens to carry, from early life; how cheerfully and quietly he bore them, devoting his life to the discharge of his duty, rather than the pursuit of pleasure or fame, we all know. He was not merely a citizen; he was a citizen to be proud of and his death was a public bereavement."

John T. Noye.—John T. Noye was born on the 21st of March, 1814, in the city of New York. He died at his residence in Buffalo, April 6, 1851. His parents originally came from England; his father, Richard Noye, came to this country when eighteen years old, and is said to have been the first merchant miller in the State of New York. Mr. Noye passed the early years of
his life in the various towns of Westchester county, and when seventeen years old took charge of the
flooring mill at Rye, N. Y., where he remained until the spring of 1835, when he came to Buffalo
and was employed in the Frontier Mills, at Black Rock. A few months later he was engaged to
take charge of the mills at Springville, Erie county, but returned to Buffalo in a short time and
accepted a position with Elisha Hayward, who was at that time interested in the flour and grain
trade and carried on in a small way the manufacture of millstones. From that small shop, estab-
lished in 1828, has grown the immense business of the John T. Noye Manufacturing Company,
where some three hundred and fifty men find employment, the name and reputation of which is
known wherever wheat is made into flour.
After a brief apprenticeship as clerk with Mr. Hayward, Mr. Noye became a member of the firm,
the name of which, after the death of Mr. Hayward, in 1846, was Hayward & Noye, Nelson Hay-
ward acting as trustee for the widow of Elisha Hayward and representing her in the business. The
office was at that time on Hanover street. This partnership lasted until 1850, when Mr. Noye
assumed the entire control and ownership of the business, and removed to the location on Washing-
ton street with which the business has so long been identified. In 1883 the Lehigh Valley Railroad
Company purchased a part of the property and the works have recently been removed to their new
location on Lake View avenue.
Up to the year 1850 Mr. Noye had not given up the grain business, but carried it on extensively
and profitably. In 1848, memory of the year of the Irish famine, he purchased and shipped wheat and other produce to an amount exceeding in value $8,000,000. In those days no
Atlantic cable was in existence to flash the news from continent to continent, and the arrivals of
foreign steamers were anxiously awaited to enable operators to judge of the advisability of purchas-
ing or selling commodities. The reputation Mr. Noye enjoyed for sagacity and promptness of de-
cision was by no means mediocre and aided him in the realization of his most sanguine expectations.
To him belongs the credit of having purchased the first cargo of wheat shipped from Chicago.
About the year 1856 Mr. Noye turned his attention almost exclusively to the manufacture of
machinery for flour mills, which business grew rapidly under his energetic and intelligent manage-
ment, until probably no other man in the business was better known, personally or by reputation, or
more respected in his business as well as in his social relations; his name became a synonym for
excellence in everything that left his works. At the time under consideration bank accommoda-
tions were practically unknown in Buffalo. Discount could not be obtained for a larger period than thirty
days and the banks were all operators in grain. When the dark days of 1857 came, financial embar-
rassments involved him to many times the amount of his capital; but without credit he still perse-
vered and never relinquished his business enterprises nor avoided his responsibilities. With rare
perseverance and unfaltering courage he was able, after many years, to place his business on a firm foot-
ing and to discharge his obligations in full.
Mr. Noye never felt any inclination to public life and held no public office. He devoted his
time and energies to the management of his manufacturing and business interests, finding therein his
most congenial occupation.
In character Mr. Noye was entitled to the most profound respect; integrity, force, intelligence
and intuitive knowledge of men were happily blended in him, enabling him to leave an unblemished
record and gaining him the esteem of the entire community. He was a sincere Christian and held
for many years the office of deacon in the Presbyterian Church; he was also elected ruling elder and
trustee, and although he had not for years (owing to deafness) heard a word of the service, he was
always prompt and constant in his attendance upon divine worship.
Upon the death of Mr. Noye, the Buffalo Board of Trade, of which he was one of the founders,
represented by a committee composed of Charles J. Mann, Conway W. Ball and George B. Mat-
thews, prepared and passed an appropriate series of resolutions, which were accompanied by the fol-
lowing memorial notes:
Another member of the Board of Trade has gone the way of all the earth—John T. Noye, whose
business career commenced with the business of our lake and canal trade; although the firm of Hay-
ward & Noye were engaged in the mill furnishing business as far back as 1824. They were also
engaged in the flour and grain trade of the dock. Mr. Noye was one of the incorporators of the
Board in 1850—known to all of us as a Christian gentleman through a long life of great activity. He
spent his life in building up our city, and by his great enterprise and indefatigable energy, estab-
lished one of the largest manufacturing industries in the land. His honor was unquestioned. His
large heart showed itself in his generosities and his daily life proved his Christian character. We cannot let his death pass without notice and tendering to his afflicted family our heartfelt sympathies, and rejoicing with them that he has lived and leaves to us all the most enduring and grandest monument—a good name."

This memorial minute was adopted and engrossed upon the record, and a copy furnished to the family and press.

Mr. Noye was married to Miss Maria Kirby, of Rye, Westchester county, N. Y., March 19, 1835. She was a daughter of David Kirby and Leah Bird, and died March 18, 1870. The children of this marriage are Richard K. Noye, born February 28, 1838; Helen Maria, born December 26, 1839; Elizabeth Cole, born February 5, 1844; E. Hayward, born October 17, 1848, died in 1882. Six other children died in infancy. Richard K. Noye has for some years managed the business of the firm of John T. Noye & Sons, and is now president of the John T. Noye Manufacturing Co.

GEORGE PALMER* was born in Tiverton, Rhode Island, April 24, 1792, and died in the city of Buffalo, New York, September 19, 1864. His grandfather settled in Tiverton about the middle of the eighteenth century and the father of George was born there in 1766. It is probable that they were the descendants of Benjamin Palmer, who resided in Stonington, Conn., in 1605, and the genealogical records of the early New England settlers state that from that period no generation of the Palmers has failed to have in it both a Joseph and a Benjamin. The father and grandfather of George were each named Benjamin. For two hundred years past the name has been common in Rhode Island and the eastern portion of Connecticut, while it has representatives in every State of the Union.

Benjamin Palmer, the father of George, emigrated to Palmyra, in Wayne county, in 1796, where he died shortly after, leaving his family with small means to struggle with the hardships incident to life at that period in such a wilderness as was Western New York. The toils and privations of boyhood served to nurture the qualities of self-reliance, endurance and daring for which Mr. Palmer became conspicuous in his mature years. He learned his trade as a tanner, of Mr. Manson, of East Bloomfield, Ontario county, and after working for Mr. Henry Jessup at Palmyra, for two years, formed a partnership with him in 1814, which continued successful and mutually satisfactory until 1828. On March 24, 1817, Mr. Palmer was married to Miss Harriet Foster, of Palmyra. Six sons and two daughters were born to them. Of the sons, Everard Palmer alone survived him. Their daughter, Cynthia J., married Mr. Peter Cartiss, and Harriet F., married Mr. James O. Putnam.

Mr. Palmer moved to Buffalo in 1825 and entered into partnership with Noah H. Gardner, in the leather manufacturing business. Jabez B. Ball was afterwards a member of the firm, which was continued to the time of Mr. Palmer's death. Foreseeing the growth of this city, he made considerable purchases of lands in eligible localities, which he largely built up for commercial and manufacturing purposes. He devoted himself to his manufacturing interests with little diversion to outside affairs, until the larger relations of Buffalo demanded railroad connections with the West. Mr. Palmer was one of the first to see this necessity and he entered with characteristic energy into the enterprise of constructing the State Line railroad. In June, 1849, Mr. Palmer took hold of the enterprise in earnest and was elected president of the company, and continued in that position by successive re-elections until his death. The office with him was not merely nominal. During the construction of the road he gave his whole time with unceasing labor, to the supervision of the work in all its details. He was liberal with means and gave his credit to the extent of his fortune in conducting it to completion, and carried into all its affairs the same economy that characterized his private business.

He was one of the originators and largest stockholders of the Marine Bank of Buffalo; became its president in August, 1854, and held that position until his death. To his financial skill is that institution largely indebted for the success which it achieved during his life.

Soon after the development of the rich deposits of iron which abound on the shores of Lake Superior, Mr. Palmer turned his attention to the subject of its manufacture in Buffalo. He confidently anticipated the period as not remote when Buffalo would become the center of the largest iron trade upon the continent. In conjunction with the late General Wadsworth whose untimely

* From a sketch prepared for the Buffalo Historical Society, by the late Hon. George R. Babcock.
death upon the battle-field a nation mourns, he established a large furnace which was soon blended
with a similar enterprise entered upon by Means, Warren & Thompson, forming the extensive
furnaces and rolling mills known as the Union Iron Works.

Apart from his regular business and the enterprises enumerated, Mr. Palmer was often interested
with others in mercantile pursuits, to the conduct of which he gave but little personal attention.
Young men of industry, good character, and talent for business, often received great assistance from
him in the way of capital and credit, for which no compensation, beyond simple interest for cash
advanced, was asked or paid. No man was more liberal in the use of his name as surety for his
neighbors, and often he met with severe losses and inconveniences from the freedom with which, in
this way, he assisted others in business. His pecuniary liabilities for others, where he had no
security except the integrity of those in whom he confided, and no apparent motive for the risk
incurred except a desire to be of service, were oftentimes very large, and sufficient to excite lively'
apprehensions of disaster to his own fortunes.

His labors and liberality for the advancement of the material interests of himself and his neigh-
bors by no means constituted the sum of his efforts. The various institutions of a benevolent scope,
which to so remarkable an extent characterize the civilization of our country, found in him an
efficient friend and liberal contributor. From an early period in his life he was a man of decided
religious views. His faith and character were of the New England, Puritan stamp. Upon coming
to this city he united with the First Presbyterian Church. Upon the division of that ecclesiastical
body he adhered to the Old School, and was a liberal contributor to the erection and support of the
Pearl Street Central Church, under the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Lord. In 1857 it was thought
advisable to establish a new church farther up town and some steps were taken in that direction,
which were entirely frustrated by the financial ruin that occurred in the fall of that year.
Although his associates in the enterprise were unable to continue it, Mr. Palmer resolved that it
should not fail and soon set himself to the work of building upon the site which had become his
individual property by purchase, the beautiful structure on Delaware street known as Calvary
Church. The whole work was carried on under his immediate supervision. This edifice with its
appurtenances cost $85,000, and the whole was conveyed a free gift, July 7, 1862, to the society
now worshipping in it. He imposed a few wise conditions to insure its preservation and continued
use for the advancement of the Christian faith which he professed.

Mr. Palmer possessed a good physical constitution which was improved by constant exercise in
the open air and preserved by habits of temperance. His power of endurance was great; his activity
both of mind and body almost ceaseless; and he little felt the effects of advancing years. He was
in attendance upon two services in Calvary Church the day before his death, apparently in perfect
health. He died September 20, 1864, from an attack of angina pectoris. Mr. Palmer's life was
frugal and unostentatious. His intellectual qualities were of a superior order. With clear percep-
tions, comprehensive views, and rapid evolutions of thought, he united a resolution that was rarely
shaken.

Mr. Palmer's posterity at the present time are Everard Palmer, Harlow C., son of Everard,
and an infant daughter of Harlow C.; George Palmer Putnam, and his children, George Palmer,
James Osborne, Mary Hall and Edward Hall; Harriet Osborne Putnam, and Mrs. Robert Keating
and her children, George Palmer, Jeanette and Harriet.

Orson Phelps was born at Fabius, Oneida county, N. Y., December 17th, 1805; he was
one of a family of seventeen children, the parents of whom were Oliver Phelps, born at Sal-
mon Brook, Granby county, Conn., December 12, 1779, d. May 4, 1851; and Abigail St. John,
daughter of Samuel St. John, of Connecticut. They were married on the 16th of January, 1800,
and came into Central New York about the beginning of the present century. The boyhood of
Orson Phelps did not differ materially from that of most boys of that period; it was a period of
labor, alternating with attendance at the primitive schools of that day, during portions of each year,
until he was fourteen years old. From that time he was actively engaged with his father in various
kinds of business involving enterprises of much importance. They established the first stage line
over the Catskill mountains, from Ithaca to New York city. They built the first steamboat on
Cayuga lake, and Orson was her captain at fourteen years of age. They also built the first bridge
across the foot of Cayuga lake, as well as the first canal locks at Lockport. They constructed the
"deep cut" of the Welland canal, at St. Catharines, C. W., and in 1857 had the contract for building the Genesee Valley Canal. While residing in St. Catharines, they built a Presbyterian Church, of which the son was a member for many years.

Mr. Phelps came to Buffalo to live about the year 1840, and bought the old United States Bank property on the corner of Main and South Division streets, where he erected a hotel which for some years was known as the Phelps House; it was subsequently called the Clarendon Hotel and was destroyed in 1859. Mr. Phelps was one of the original promoters of the Buffalo Water Works, and was the first to suggest the tapping of Chautauqua lake as a source of pure water for the city. He was one of the original Councilors of the Medical Department of the Buffalo University and held that position to the time of his death; he was also instrumental in the establishment of the General Hospital.

On the 6th of October, 1846, Mr. Phelps was married to Miss Calista Maria Fisk, daughter of Abram J. Fisk and Maria St. John Fisk, of the State of Illinois, both deceased. Three children were born to them, two of whom are dead; the other is Calvin F. Phelps, of Buffalo. Mrs. Phelps is also a resident of the city at this time.

This sketch may be appropriately closed with the following extract from an obituary notice printed in the Buffalo Courier:

"It will be readily inferred by those who did not know the man, that his life was one of activity and usefulness. His mind had a strong mechanical bias, and he followed whither it led, with the best results. He preferred large projects to small ones and handled them with the same ease that men of lesser mental calibre would show in dealing with schemes of minor importance. He was admirably fitted, during his active life, to assume great responsibilities, for he belonged eminently to that class of men who master their business and are not mastered by it. Indeed, he was such a man in his energy, uprightness, public spirit and irresistible earnestness as would make himself felt anywhere in those enterprises which look to the building up of a city. He was for many years a communicant in the Presbyterian Church and a constant attendant. Mr. Phelps was a hearty, genial man, warmly attached to family and friends, a man of liberal views and unimpeachable integrity, and a citizen whose history is inwoven with the prosperity and growth of Buffalo."

Mr. Phelps died on the 15th of March, 1870, leaving a record of which his friends may feel proud, and his loss regretted by the entire community.

WILLIAM WARREN POTTER was born in Strykersville, Genesee (now Wyoming) county, N. Y., December 31, 1837. His father, Dr. Lindorf Potter, a native of the town of Sheldon, Genesee (Wyoming) county, was a son of Dr. Benjamin Potter. The latter married Phoebe, daughter of Dr. Eastman, of Connecticut, and came hence to Western New York in 1808, and was, therefore, one of the earliest physicians in the Holland Purchase. Of four sons, two (Lindorf and Milton E.) became physicians and settled in the same county of their birth, where they became distinguished in their profession. Dr. Lindorf Potter, father of the subject of this sketch, married Mary G., daughter of the Rev. Abijah Blanchard, D. D., a prominent clergyman in the Episcopal Church, February 12, 1837, and settled in Strykersville, N. Y. He removed to Warsaw, in 1842; thence to Varysburg in 1844, where he practiced medicine until his death, which occurred March 27, 1857.

Dr. Milton E. Potter, uncle of William W., settled in Bennington Centre, whence he removed to Cowlesville, and thence to Attica, N. Y., where he died in 1875, in the ripeness of years and the full enjoyment of a busy practice up to the last days of his life. He was the father of Dr. Milton Grosvenor Potter, late Professor of Anatomy in the Buffalo Medical College, who died in Buffalo January 28, 1878.

The early life of William W. Potter was passed in the vicinity of his birth, and his early education was received in the private schools, at Arcade Seminary, and at Genesee Seminary and College at Lima, N. Y. He came to Buffalo in 1854, receiving his medical education at Buffalo Medical College, where he graduated February 23, 1859. Soon after graduating he was offered a partnership in the practice of medicine, by his uncle, Dr. M. E. Potter, of Cowlesville, N. Y., where he located in the spring of 1859. Upon the breaking out of the civil war he made haste to offer his services in a professional capacity to the Government, and passed the examination of the Army Medical Examining Board at Albany, N. Y., April 25, 1861. He became interested in the organization of the Second Buffalo Regiment (the Forty-ninth New York Volunteers) in the summer of 1861, and was commissioned by Governor Morgan its Assistant Surgeon, September 16, 1861, at the instance of the Union Defense Committee, which was composed of Mayor F. A. Alberger, Dr. Edward...
Storch, James Adams, Isaac Holloway, Alderman A. A. Howard and others. Colonel D. D. Bidwell was selected to command the regiment and, under his experienced and able leadership, it bore its part honorably and well in the great contest which so sorely tried the mettle of American soldiers. The history of the Forty-ninth Regiment has become a part of the History of Erie County, and need not be recounted here.

Dr. Potter served as its junior medical officer during all of its earlier career, from the date of its organization; with it when it joined the Army of the Potomac; followed its fortunes during the peninsular campaign; then when it was temporarily under Pope; again when it was under McClellan in the Maryland campaign; and finally when under Burnside in the Fredericksburgh disaster. He was left with the wounded of Smith's division on the night of the 29th of June, 1862, by order of General Franklin, commanding the Sixth Corps, when the army was retreating by the flank to Harrison's Landing, and next morning fell into the hands of the enemy, when he had an interesting interview with the dreadnought "Stonewall" Jackson. In a few days he was removed to Richmond and given quarters in Libby prison, then under command of the celebrated Lieutenant Turner. He was released among the first exchanges under the cartel arranged between the hostile powers, and delivered to the hospital steamship Louisiana, July 18, 1862, and immediately thereafter rejoined his regiment at Harrison's Landing, Va. On December 16, 1862, just after the battle of Fredericksburgh, he was promoted surgeon of the Fifty-seventh Regiment New York Volunteers, in Hancock's division of the Second Corps. He served with his regiment during the Chancellorsville and Gettysburg campaigns; and, in August, 1863, was assigned to the charge of the First Division Hospital, Second Corps, continuing upon that duty until his muster-out of service with his regiment near the close of the war. He was brevetted Lieutenant-Colonel United States Volunteers for faithful and meritorious service, by the President of the United States, and by New York Volunteers by the Governor of the State of New York, for like reasons.

After the war he performed service for the Government in connection with the Pension Office as General Examining Surgeon, and was appointed Coroner of the District of Columbia. He resigned the latter office to return to the more congenial field of private practice, and located temporarily in Mount Morris, Livingston county. For several years he resided in Batavia, Genesee county, where he was physician to the New York State Institution for the Blind; he was a member of the Genesee County Medical Society, which his grandfather, Dr. Benjamin Potter, joined in 1813; which his father, Dr. Lindorf Potter, joined in 1833; and which his uncle, Dr. Milton E. Potter, joined in 1838. Finally he returned to Buffalo in 1881, where he has since resided pursuing the practice of his profession.

He is a Curator of the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo; permanent member of the American Medical Association (1878); permanent member of the Medical Society of the State of New York (1883); member of the Erie County Medical Society; member of the Buffalo Medical and Surgical Association; member of the Buffalo Medical Union; and life member of Alumni Association of Buffalo Medical College. He was one of the founders of the latter association, and its president in 1877. His professional tastes, largely cultivated by association with his father, led him early into the field of surgery and he has performed many of the more important operations, both in military and civil practice.

Of late he has turned his attention quite largely to diseases of women, having performed many important operations in this department of medicine. He has been a frequent contributor to medical literature, and has, likewise, written many unpublished papers for medical societies and other bodies. Among his published writings may be mentioned the following: "Umbilical Hernia in the Adult, with the report of a successful operation," Buffalo Medical Journal, 1879; "Rectal Alimentation for the Relief of the Obstinate Vomiting of Pregnancy," American Journal of Obstetrics, New York, 1880; "Remarks on Rectal Feeding in Disease," New York Medical Record, 1880; "Epithelium of the Cervix Uteri," Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, 1881; "The Geno-Pectoral Posture in Uterine and Ovarian Displacements," Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, 1882; "The Geno-Pectoral Posture," Transactions of the American Medical Association, 1882; "Induction of Premature Labor in Puerperal Eclampsia," Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, 1883; "Address to the Alumni of Buffalo Medical College," delivered in St. James