

Arthur, of Kinderhook, N. Y., a lady of estimable character, who died in 1850. Their children were Arthur I., now of San Antonio, Texas, and Frederick E., Isabella B., Albert C., and Theodore, all of New York City.

Mr. Lockwood was a man of upright character and was highly respected. He was not eminent as an advocate, but was possessed of good common sense, and was a safe adviser in legal matters. Through the political influence of his partner, General Aaron Ward, who was for a long time a member of Congress, Mr. Lockwood obtained a great deal of pension business. Ralph Lockwood, a brother of Albert, was an attorney in New York, and acquired a large business and a high reputation. General Munson I. Lockwood, at one time clerk of Westchester County, and agent and warden of Sing Sing Prison, was another brother.¹

Stephen D. Horton gave promise of obtaining eminence at the bar, but met with an early death. He was descended from Barnabas Horton, who came to this country from England in 1640. Stephen was the son of Wright Horton, of Yorktown, and Ann Quers his wife, and was born in Yorktown October 3, 1808. He came to Peekskill in 1831, began the study of law with Hon. William Nelson, became the partner of the latter in 1835, and a few years afterwards engaged in practice by himself. He died March 5, 1842, and was buried in the yard attached to the First Presbyterian Church, in Peekskill. He was married to Delia Clapp, sister of Dornon Clapp, of Peekskill, and had one daughter, who was born in 1842 and died in 1855.

Robert H. Coles, surrogate, 1855-62, was originally from the neighborhood of Tarrytown. He studied law in the office of Minott Mitchell, at White Plains, and located in New Rochelle, where his energy and devotion to his profession soon obtained him a good practice. He was secretary of the Westchester Fire Insurance Company of New York in its early days, when it was located at New Rochelle. He was a Democrat in politics, and an active worker for his party. His death occurred January 15, 1862. He was then barely thirty years old. He was buried in the church-yard at Sleepy Hollow. Mr. Coles was not regarded as a brilliant lawyer, but he was pushing and energetic and was considered honest and reliable. He was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Palmer, of White Plains, and had two daughters and one son.

Elijah Yerks was a lawyer of considerable prominence in Westchester County for many years. He was, in 1805 or 1806, born near Unionville, in Mt. Pleasant, and in early manhood was proprietor of a country store. He subsequently began the study of law in the office of Minott Mitchell, at White Plains, and on being admitted to the bar, in 1833, located in

Peekskill. In 1840 he removed to Carmel, Putnam County, where he and Owen T. Coffin, the present surrogate of Westchester County, were the only representatives of the legal profession. After four or five years he returned to Peekskill, and later removed to Tarrytown, where he died in 1864. He was unmarried. Mr. Yerks was one of the most systematic and painstaking of men. He was not quick nor brilliant, and was not considered as more than a fair orator, but he was a reliable adviser. He was economical and accumulated property to the amount of twenty or thirty thousand dollars.

Alexander H. Wells was born at Cambridge, Washington County, N. Y., to which place his father, Daniel Wells, emigrated from Hebron, Conn. He was a graduate of Cambridge Academy, and studied law while filling the office of surrogate, to which, owing to his political influence, he was appointed by Governor William H. Seward in 1840, and which he held until 1844. He was made warden of Sing Sing Prison in 1848. Mr. Wells was a political writer and edited the *Haverstraw Weekly Times* four years, the *Hudson River Chronicle* three years and the *Troy Daily Times* three years. He wrote with force and facility, but his impetuous nature led him often into mistakes which a more prudent journalist might have avoided. He died in Sing Sing in 1857.

Frederick J. Coffin, who succeeded A. H. Wells as surrogate in 1844, was born at Nantucket in 1783. His parents removed to Hudson, N. Y., when he was a mere child. He was admitted to the bar in 1806 and almost immediately thereafter came to Westchester County. He settled in Somers, and married Charlotte Green. He was a master in Chancery for many years, and at one time a justice of the peace in Somers. He also held for a period the office of post-master of that town. During his incumbency in the surrogate's office he lived in White Plains. At the close of his term he removed to New York, where he died October 23, 1860.

Mr. Coffin was a pleasant, kindly man, and as lawyer had a good practice. His powers as a speaker were good, and his reputation for integrity was high. While many of his decisions in cases coming before him as surrogate were appealed, it is said that his finding was sustained in every case.

Mr. Coffin's children were Mary E., now of New York City; George G., of New York; Isaac G., of Brooklyn; Jarvis B., of San Francisco; and Sarah Ann, Robert A., Frederick J. and Josiah B., deceased.

William Warburton Scrugham, a judge of the Supreme Court for the district including Westchester County and the first lawyer who practiced in the village (now city) of Yonkers, was the son of an Irishman who came to this country from Dublin about the year 1810, and opened a dry-goods store in the lower part of New York City. William was born in March, 1820, and was deprived of both his parents when

¹ The above biography was kindly communicated by Mr. Fred. E. Lockwood.