



PORTRAIT AND

BIOGRAPHICAL



OF

ORANGE COUNTY
NEW YORK

Containing Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent
and Representative Citizens of the County.

Together with Biographies and Portraits of all the Presidents
of the United States.

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two nephews. They do a wholesale and retail business, and their trade reaches as far south as Florida in the United States, and to London, England. They own quite extensive buildings, which were built by the senior members of the firm. Their place of business in New York City is at No. 138 West Thirty-first Street. Few men in Orange County have had more extensive business experience, and his success is attributed to his energy and push.

Mr. Sanford was united in marriage, in 1855, with Miss Annie S. Burt, a daughter of Stephen A. and Pauline (Fairfield) Burt, the former a native of the town of Warwick and the latter of the state of Maine. Three children were born unto them, two of whom are yet living: Pauline, the wife of W. W. Wendom, a prominent physician of Warwick; and Edward B., who is now studying law.

In politics Mr. Sanford is independent, voting for such men as he thinks will best serve the interests of the people. In religion he is liberal, and contributes of his means to the support of the various churches in his community.



CHARLES G. ELLIOTT is President of the Goshen National Bank, which is capitalized at \$110,000. This well known and stable financial institution was organized in 1850, and about 1864 was started under its present policy as a national bank. At intervals since 1850 Mr. Elliott has been a public official. He entered the County Clerk's office under his uncle, Nathan Westcott, who was then Clerk of Orange County, continuing in one clerical capacity or another in this office until 1865, and after three years was made Deputy Clerk at Goshen. During his three-years term he made a study of abstracts, and subsequently conducted an office in this line of business for six years. Again he became Deputy Clerk, and is now serving his thirty-fifth year in this office. In the fall of 1888 he was nominated and elected on the Democratic ticket to the

County Clerkship, a great victory, as he was the only one of his party's candidates to win a majority. He took the oath of office in January, 1889, and served until January, 1892, when he became Deputy. For years he has been a Town Trustee, and is now acting as Treasurer of the village for his eleventh year.

Our subject is a descendant of John Eliot, who came as a missionary to America soon after the landing of the Pilgrims. He was a native of England, and on his demise was interred in the cemetery at Roxbury, Mass. The great-grandfather, Aaron Elliott, who was an iron manufacturer in Connecticut, was a son of Jarrod, grandson of Joseph, and great-grandson of the original John Eliot, before mentioned. Our subject's grandfather, Dr. William Elliott, was the first of the name to adopt the present orthography. He was born in Connecticut, and at an early day came to Goshen, where he was a practicing physician until his death.

Judge Horace W. Elliott, father of C. G. was born in Killingworth, Conn., and came to this place about 1802. From that time until his death he was engaged in business here as a druggist. He was a hero of the War of 1812, was an ardent Democrat, and held the offices of Justice of the Peace and Associate County Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. At the close of a long and useful career he died, in 1863, when in his eighty-third year. His wife, Charlotte, a native of Goshen, was the daughter of Hon. David N. Westcott, who was a member of the New York Constitutional Convention, was Colonel of a company of state militia, and served in the Legislature. For several years he was also County Clerk of Orange County. Financially he was well-to-do, possessing valuable tracts of land and other property. He died when about seventy years of age. Mrs. Charlotte Elliott, who was a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church, departed this life in 1880, when about threescore and ten years of age.

Charles G. Elliott is one of six children who grew to mature years and is now the only surviving son. He was born in Goshen, March 8, 1837, and received his education in the local schools and in Farmer's Hall Academy. When

but thirteen years of age he began serving an apprenticeship, if it may so be termed, in the field where he has so nobly acquitted himself, that of a public officer. His maternal uncle, Mr. Westcott, was of great assistance to him at that stage of his life, and trained him in methodical and systematic ways of doing business, which have been of inestimable value to him. At the close of the war he went to New York City and obtained a clerkship in the American National Bank, but gave up the position in 1867 to return to his boyhood home. The next few years were occupied in the several official positions referred to at the opening of this sketch. He was always at the post of duty and was a credit both to himself and to his political constituents. When the Goshen National Bank was re-organized in July, 1892, he was tendered the cashiership and retained it until March, 1893, when he was further honored by being made President of the institution. Since 1857 Mr. Elliott has been an able and efficient member of the fire department and for the last twenty-one years has served as Chief.

The pleasant and hospitable home of Mr. Elliott on Church Street is built in modern style and furnished in excellent taste. He was married in Goshen, in 1883, to Miss Frances L. Strong, a native of the place. She is a daughter of Benjamin Strong, formerly a merchant of New York City, but now deceased. Mr. Elliott is an Elder in the Goshen Presbyterian Church and takes commendable interest in its several departments of activity and usefulness.



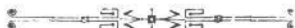
WILLIAM H. WYKER is one of the leading members of the Bar of Orange County, and has held the office of Justice of the Peace since 1875. He takes a very active part in Democratic campaign work, and has done so for nearly twenty years, under the auspices of the State Committee. In the last campaign he made speeches during a period of six weeks in various parts of the state, awakening popular enthusiasm, and won renown for himself. In the fall of 1894 his friends brought his name forward

as a candidate for the Second District Assembly. For many years he has served as Chairman of the local Democratic committee, and has been a member of several others.

Dr. Alfred Wyker, father of the above-named gentleman, was born in Sussex County, N. J., as was also the grandfather, Henry Wyker, the latter a farmer and of German descent. Alfred Wyker graduated from the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, and afterward practiced in Niles, Mich., until the war broke out, when he was commissioned Surgeon of the Fourteenth Michigan Infantry. During the progress of the war he moved his family East, and continued his services until he was obliged to retire on account of ill-health, incident to exposure, and his death resulted in 1863. In his political faith he was a Republican of the most unswerving type. His wife, Julia F. Ludlum, also a native of Sussex County, N. J., was a daughter of Thomas I. Ludlum, who was born in Goshen, and who afterward operated a farm in Sussex County, owning upwards of one thousand acres. He was a very prominent citizen, and was elected Clerk of Sussex County, discharging the duties which rested upon him with ability and to the full satisfaction of his constituents. He owed a number of fine standard and thoroughbred horses, which he kept for his own private use. He was called to his final rest in 1854, his death being considered a public calamity. He was a son of William and grandson of Isaac Ludlum, who were numbered among the extensive land-owners of the town of Goshen from a very early day.

William H. Wyker was born in Sussex County, N. J., August 8, 1853, and is an only child. He resided in Michigan until the outbreak of the war, when he went with his mother to Sussex County. He attended Mt. Retirement Seminary and Rankin Seminary, at Mendon, N. J., and in 1870 graduated from the state normal at Trenton, N. J., after which he taught school for two years at Hampton Junction, N. J. In 1873 he came to Goshen and took up the study of law with Messrs. Sharpe & Nanny, being admitted to the Bar in 1876, in Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He at once located for the practice of his profession at

namely: William Grant, who is a member of the Class of '66 of Wallkill Academy, preparing for college; Florence Louise, Clements Durham and Lucy Hortense. The family occupy an elegant residence on Highland Avenue, which was designed and built by Mr. Decker. He is a member of the Second Presbyterian Church. For a time he was President of Excelsior Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, and is now an honorary member of the organization. Socially he is identified with the Paughcaughmaughsinque Lodge of Red Men in this city. He is also a member of Clinton Lodge No. 169, F. & A. M., at Clinton; Midland Chapter No. 240, R. A. M.; Delaware Commandery No. 44, at Port Jervis, and of the Psi Chapter of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity.



HERBERT GEDNEY, attorney and counselor-at-law at Middletown, was born in Goshen, June 22, 1852. The Gedney family were originally from Kent, England, and the name, which is an old Saxon one, was originally spelled Gednaia. The first members of the family, who came from Pike Island, were of the landed gentry. The father of our subject, the late Judge David F. Gedney, was a son of Dr. Gedney, a prominent physician of Newburgh. His mother is the great-granddaughter of Lord Stirling, the famous Revolutionary General, whose daughter, Lady Katherine Alexander, married William Duer, Esq. The grandfather of the Doctor was the first of the family in America, and located in Newburgh. The father of our subject, D. F. Gedney, a native of Newburgh, was District Attorney of Orange County two terms, and County Judge the same length of time. After graduating from Union College, he studied law and was admitted to the Bar. Later he formed a partnership with Nathan Westcott, under the firm name of Gedney & Westcott, at Goshen, N. Y., this partnership continuing until the retirement of Mr. Westcott. Mr. Gedney continued alone until 1875, when he took his son Herbert into partnership, the firm becoming D. F. & H. Gedney.

During the war the Judge was instrumental in

recruiting the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth New York Infantry. He was a man of good literary taste, a great linguist, and a musician of more than ordinary ability. He wrote a great deal of church music, and in church matters he always took a deep interest, for many years serving as Warden of St. James Episcopal Church at Goshen. As an attorney and jurist he was well known, and carried on an extensive practice. In politics he was a Republican, and for years was quite active in the councils of that party. He died in Goshen, July 9, 1888. His wife, Harriet Duer, was born in Goshen, and was a daughter of Alexander Duer, Jr., a prominent attorney in that place, whose brothers, John and William, were both Judges in the Superior Court of New York. Mrs. Harriet Gedney is still living at Goshen, N. Y. One of her sons, Alexander Duer Gedney, was lost at sea. He was in the United States navy, and when on a cruise off Cape Horn was accidentally drowned. One daughter, Henrietta, yet remains at home.

The subject of this sketch was admitted to the Bar in February, 1875, and practiced law in Goshen until the death of his father in 1888. He opened an office in Middletown in 1893, and has since been connected with the Bar at this place. In many interesting and important cases he has acted as counsel, and has been very successful in the prosecution of cases in the various courts. In politics he is a Republican, and was a candidate for the office of District Attorney in 1882, but was defeated by Hon. Russell Headley, of Newburgh. He has decided literary taste, is well read in church history, and is greatly interested in church literature. He is a member of Grace Episcopal Church, and at present is connected with the choir.

Mr. Gedney was married, in Goshen, to Miss Eleanor B. Blauvelt, a native of Rockland County, and a daughter of Cornelius Blauvelt, now of Jersey City, who is interested in the Milk Exchange at that place. The Blauvelts were originally from Holland, and were old settlers in Rockland County. To Mr. and Mrs. Gedney have been born two children, Katharine and Minnie.