

Eastman Genealogy and History

THE BENCH AND BAR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

INCLUDING

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES OF DECEASED JUDGES
OF THE HIGHEST COURT, AND LAWYERS
OF THE PROVINCE AND STATE
AND A LIST OF NAMES OF
THOSE NOW LIVING

BY

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BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY
The Riverside Press, Cambridge
1894

Hillsborough, and soon afterwards, assistant clerk of the Superior Court. In 1823, on the organization of Merrimac County, he became clerk of the Superior Court, and afterwards clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for that county.

In 1826 Mr. Eastman removed to Concord, but after eight years there, resumed his residence in Salisbury, until 1847, when he changed his abode to Waltham, Massachusetts, at the age of seventy-seven, probably to be near some of his children.

He was a good clerk, but was not particularly successful as a lawyer. Though honest, and with the best intentions, he is said to have lacked knowledge of men and of common affairs. Moreover, he was excitable, and liable to be carried away by any sudden gust of feeling. In hearings before a justice, for example, he would get into a frenzy and lose his self-control completely. It was probably this weakness that stood in the way of his employment in contested suits, and his own consciousness of it that led him to obtain the assistance of other counsel in all his cases which were to be heard in the higher tribunals.

The first wife of Mr. Eastman was Susan, daughter of Dr. Joseph Bartlett of Salisbury; his second was Eliza Sweetser, whom he married in 1807.

He had eleven children, most of them by his second wife.

NEHEMIAH EASTMAN.

Son of Ebenezer and Mary (Butler) Eastman; born, Gilmanton, June 16, 1782; admitted, 1807; practiced, Farmington; died there, January 19, 1856.

Mr. Eastman was a student in the academy at Gilmanton until he reached the age of nearly twenty, and then entered upon his term of legal study, four years with Stephen Moody of his native town, and one year with John C. Chamberlain of Charlestown. In 1807 he commenced practice in Farmington, and was a careful, prudent, diligent lawyer. It was his habit to be in his office as early as any one was stirring, often by four o'clock in the morning, and to remain until ten o'clock in the evening, — a day's work that in point of length would put to shame the laborers of the present generation, professional or mechanical, the latter especially. By such industry and application he secured a large clientage.

His abilities were good, though not brilliant, his law knowledge

sufficient and at command, and he accomplished in his long practice a prodigious amount of business, not indeed of the character to captivate the eye of the public, but of the kind which buttresses and facilitates the every-day transactions of men. He rarely engaged in jury trials without an associate. With his brethren of the bar and with the public his standing was alike good.

In middle life Mr. Eastman was actively concerned in political affairs, and was a warm partisan of Levi Woodbury whose sister he married. He represented Farmington in the legislature of 1813; was a state senator in 1820 and the four following years; and was a representative in Congress from 1825 to 1827.

He married Anstris B., daughter of Hon. Peter Woodbury of Francestown, October 24, 1812. George N. Eastman, his successor in practice in Farmington, was their son.

ROYAL EASTMAN.

Son of Richard and Elmira (Morrill) Eastman; born, Falmouth, Maine, June 27, 1816; admitted, 1844; practiced, Somersworth; died there, February 2, 1874.

Mr. Eastman was of Quaker parentage, and was educated at the Friends' School, Providence, Rhode Island. After arriving at man's estate, he was engaged for a time in teaching, and then turned his attention to the law. He was in the office of Nathaniel Wells of Somersworth from 1842 to 1844, having previously studied in Maine, it is supposed. He entered into practice in Great Falls Village, in company with Winthrop A. Marston.

Mr. Eastman was a pleasant companion, a man of integrity, and a sagacious lawyer. He was of rather too retiring and self-distrustful a nature to take the brunt of the battle in a resort to litigation. As junior counsel, to prepare causes, marshal authorities, and see that everything was in instant readiness, he was invaluable. His practice was a considerable one, and he was retained in not a few important causes.

He received the appointment of postmaster of Great Falls in 1870, and retained it as long as he lived. For many years he held the office of superintendent of schools, and of the public library.

He married, February 23, 1858, Harriet S., daughter of Dr.



