

CHAPTER XX.

LAWYERS PRACTISING IN MILFORD - ATTORNEYS, NATIVES OF MILFORD BUT PRACTISING ELSEWHERE – ATTORNEYS WHOSE EARLY LIFE WAS SPENT IN MILFORD, ALTHOUGH NOT NATIVES OF THE TOWN.

LAWYERS IN MILFORD.

Nathaniel Shattuck, Milford's first lawyer, a native of Temple, born in the year 1774, a graduate of Dartmouth college in 1801, admitted to the bar in 1804, opened a law office here the same year. Two years later he married Mary Wallace, daughter of Hon. James Wallace. He moved to Amherst in 1812 and to Mason in 1830; died in Concord, Mass., in 1864.

Mr. Shattuck was a creditable lawyer and citizen, but unfortunately for the peace and comfort of many years of his life, he was induced, upon the failure of the Hillsborough bank, located at Amherst, to bring a large number of suits against Charles H. Atherton, and other stockholders of the defunct bank, claiming that they were personally liable to make good the bills issued by this corporation. He failed in his suits and many judgments for costs were entered against him. He was imprisoned upon the executions issued upon these judgments, but for the greater part of the time he had the liberty of the jail yard, as it was called. These limits were changed from time to time until they included a large part of the town of Amherst. Mr. Shattuck practised law for many years while a prisoner.

Solomon K. Livermore, a native of Wilton and a graduate of Harvard college, became a citizen of Milford in 18009, opening an office in the early part of the year and continuing in practice until precluded by the infirmities of age. Mr. Livermore was an accomplished and an unusually learned lawyer. Although moderate in speech he could state his cause to the court or jury in a most effective manner. A full sketch of his long and useful life is found in another portion of this work.

From the time Mr. Shattuck left, in 1812, until the year 1847, Mr. Livermore has the only lawyer regularly practising in town, and it can be truthfully said of him that he never forgot his obligations as a citizen in his practice as a lawyer. If there were differences among his townsmen which furnished abundant ground for a lawsuit, his universal practice was to bring the parties to a settlement if possible. This should be placed in large measure to his credit, for in all the earlier years of his practice public sentiment allowed an attorney to bring suit upon a pecuniary obligation, obtain judgment, and in a short time bring another suit with added interest and cost until the defendant was obliged to surrender everything that he had. It was a common practice in the first quarter of this century, and perhaps later, for attorneys to practise law in this way, until they became rich as a result of their persecutions.

For the good name of the profession let it be said that this practice has long since ceased to exist, and never had an advocate in Milford.

In 1847 Mr. Livermore took as a partner Lawrence Dudley Bailey, a native of Sutton, where he was born August 16, 1819. Mr. Bailey remained with Mr. Livermore some two years and six months, leaving for California soon after the discovery of gold upon the Pacific coast.

Mr. Bailey was a strong man and a good lawyer, but did not remain in Hillsborough county sufficiently long to become well known. Returning to New Hampshire in 1853, he formed a partnership at Bradford with the late Attorney-General Mason W. Tappan, which continued until March, 1857, when he located in Kansas. It was there that the best work of his life was done. He was one of the foremost in making Kansas a free state. He was a judge of its supreme court from the time of its organization as a state until the year 1869. He died October 15, 1891.

Within a few months of the departure of Mr. Bailey in 1850, Bainbridge Wadleigh, a native of Bradford, was admitted to the bar and commenced practice as a partner of Mr. Livermore. Mr. Wadleigh's practice in town covered a longer term than that of any attorney save Mr. Livermore. He gave his attention solely to his profession, and achieved a position as a lawyer attained by no other practitioner resident in town. Without associate counsel he tried before the court and jury the most important causes.

In 1872 he took as a partner Robert M. Wallace. In 1879 this partnership was dissolved and Mr. Wadleigh opened an office in Boston, where he continued in large and successful practice until a short time previous to his death. A sketch of his professional and political career is found in another portion of this work.

In 1851, Gilbert Wadleigh, a native of Sutton, a graduate of Dartmouth college, took up his residence in town, becoming the law partner of his cousin, Bainbridge Wadleigh.

Mr. Wadleigh was a well-read and successful lawyer while he remained in practice, but was not so much attached to his profession that nothing could induce him to leave it. Very soon after settling in Milford he taught a select school in the old seminary building for two or more terms. The historian was his pupil, and remembers him as one of the most accomplished instructors he ever had.

From 1851 to 1863 he was cashier of the Souhegan National bank; from 1871 to 1876 he was treasurer of the Milford Savings bank.

He practised his profession in a limited way from the time of coming to Milford to his decease, March 7, 1886. A sketch of his life is found elsewhere in this volume.

The same year Oliver W. Lull, a native of Weare, was admitted to the bar and at once established himself as the competitor of the law firm of G. & B. Wadleigh, and remained in active practice until his appointment as lieutenant-colonel of the Eighth New Hampshire Volunteers in the Civil War.

The historian, with whom it is a pleasant recollection that he has known personally every lawyer having an office in Milford for the last one hundred years, counts it a sufficient commendation of the legal ability of Colonel Lull to say that during the ten years and more he was engaged almost constantly in trying causes against Bainbridge Wadleigh, the latter found that these contests called out his best powers.

Robert M. Wallace, a native of Henniker, and a graduate of Dartmouth college, was admitted to the bar in December, 1871, and soon after became the law partner of Bainbridge Wadleigh. Mr. Wadleigh took his seat in the United States senate, March 4, 1873, and for the six succeeding years the extensive business of the firm of Wadleigh & Wallace was conducted by the junior partner.

Mr. Wallace continued in active practice, either as partner of Senator Wadleigh or alone, until his appointment as a justice of the supreme court in the summer of 1893. (Biographical sketch elsewhere.)

Clinton S. Averill, a native of this town and one of its strong and accomplished men, a graduate of Norwich university, Vermont (1849), was admitted to the bar in 1858. Some four years after, he opened an office and continued to practise his profession in a limited way until the time of his decease, giving his attention, so far as the practice of the law was concerned, almost exclusively to probate and office practice. He was a master of probate law; a skilful conveyancer, and an adviser whose services were sought and found valuable by nearly all the people of the town. He did not attend the courts, and was not generally understood to be a lawyer in active practice.

John L. Spring was born in Newport, N. H., in 1830; was admitted to the bar in 1860. He practised his profession in Wilton about one year, when he removed to Milford. In 1870 he removed to Lebanon, where he still remains (1899) in active practice. For forty years Mr. Spring has been an active and successful lawyer.

During the ten years of his residence in Milford he served the town as moderator, selectman, and in other official positions, with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents.

Carl E. Knight, a native of New London, and a graduate of Dartmouth college, opened his law office here in December, 1881, and is now in active practice. Mr. Knight comes from a well-known Hillsborough county family, and upon his settlement here was in every way well equipped for the successful practice of his profession. He has the confidence of the entire community. The historian, in the preparation of this chapter, has received substantial aid from him.

Edgar I. Kendall, a native of Mont Vernon, was admitted to the bar in July, 1893, and at once opened a law office here.

Mr. Kendall has established the reputation of a painstaking, careful lawyer. From the beginning he has been successful in obtaining clients and in satisfying all reasonable expectations on their part.

Oliver A. Hutchinson, a son of the late Stillman Hutchinson, was admitted to the bar in this county in 1872, and for a short time had a law office in town. The attraction of business has been such that Mr. Hutchinson has given his time in part only to his profession. For some time he has been a resident of the Pacific slope. At the present time he is engaged in placer mining in the northern part of California.

Since the foregoing was written, Edward L. Kittredge, a native of Pelham, where he was born June 3, 1872, has opened an office.

Mr. Kittredge practised for a time in Nashua, having graduated creditably from the Boston Law school. He will undoubtedly in time secure the practice which his ability, natural and acquired, demands. Although not a native, Mr. Kittredge is well and favorably known in town, having spent the greater part of his life here.

John J. Bell, a son of the late Chief Justice Samuel D. Bell, had an office in town for a short time. He graduated from the law school in 1847, and came here three or four years subsequent to his graduation. After a brief residence he located in Maine as agent and attorney for his father, who had landed interests in that state. He returned to New Hampshire in 1864, making his home for the remainder of his life at Exeter. He became one of the most prominent citizens of that town. He was judge of its police court, and one of its representatives in the legislature many terms.

Albert H. Crosby, a son of the late Dr. Dixie Crosby of Hanover, was for six years, before he found his proper life work, a lawyer, passing a part of his time in Milford. He accomplished but little as a lawyer, but as a physician he attained a high rank, dying September 5, 1886.

ATTORNEYS BORN IN MILFORD BUT PRACTISING ELSEWHERE.

It is impossible to make this list complete, but some approximation can be made.

Stephen Peabody, a grandson of the first settler in town, was born October 4, 1782, graduated at Harvard college in 1803, became a lawyer and practised his profession for a time at Portsmouth and Exeter. He afterwards settled upon the Peabody farm, the place of his birth, on the north side of the river, and was extensively engaged in agriculture, giving particular attention to the raising of hops.

Some ten years before his decease, which occurred January 19, 1847, having been appointed register of probate for Hillsborough county, while retaining a large portion of the Peabody farm, which had been the birthplace of his children, he took up his residence in Amherst, practising law to a limited extent.

While a citizen of Milford he was elected a member of the executive council. (See biographical sketch.)

Eugene Hutchinson, a grandson of the early settler, Nathan Hutchinson, studied law, and practised for a brief period in Pelham, but instead of following the profession to any considerable extent became a farmer, cultivating the estate afterwards owned by his son Eugene, on the Wilton road.

Francis B. Peabody was born at the old Peabody farm, October 27, 1827; a graduate of Trinity college, Connecticut. Was admitted to the bar in 1851. Soon after, he located at Hillsborough. In the autumn of 1852 he removed to Concord, where he formed a law partnership with Nathaniel B. Baker. Mr. Baker was elected governor of the state in 1854. This practically took Mr. Baker out of practice, and Mr. Peabody associated with himself as partner William E. Chandler, under the name of Peabody & Chandler. This firm had a good clientage for three years, when Mr. Peabody removed to Chicago, where he successfully practised his profession for twelve years, when he engaged in business as a mortgage banker in which he has continued until the present time. (See biographical sketch.)

David A. Secombe, a son of David Secombe, was born May 25, 1827. He entered Dartmouth college in 1847. At the end of three years he left college, and commenced the study of law in the office of Daniel Clark of Manchester. In 1851 he left New Hampshire for Minnesota, where he was admitted to the bar the following year. At the time of his death, at the age of sixty-five, he had been an active practitioner for nearly forty years, holding a leading position at the Hennepen county bar, and ranking among the most prominent citizens of Minnesota.

He was a member of the Minnesota state constitutional convention in 1857, and of the state legislature in 1859-'60; a delegate to the national convention which nominated Lincoln in 1860, and attorney for his county in 1871-'72.

Charles H. Burns was born in Milford, January 19, 1835; he was admitted to the bar in 1858; he took up his residence in Wilton early in 1859, and has continued to reside in that town to the present time. His law office is now, and has been for a long time, in Nashua.

For many years Mr. Burns has been connected with the trial of the most important causes arising in the state. He has acted as solicitor for the county of Hillsborough, and United States district attorney for New Hampshire, and by general consent is one of the best lawyers and the leading advocate in the state. (See biographical sketch.)

George A. Ramsdell was born in Milford, March 11, 1834; he was admitted to the bar in 1857, and was in active practice in Peterborough six years, when he was appointed clerk of the supreme court of Hillsborough county. He held this office for more than twenty years, and afterwards opened a law office in Nashua.

Mr. Ramsdell has been best known as a trier of causes as referee, having visited all sections of the state in this capacity. Since his retirement from the clerk's office, his business has been confined to probate and office practice.

Jonas Hutchinson was born in Milford, January 10, 1840; he was graduated from Dartmouth college in 1863, and was admitted to the New Hampshire bar in 1869. He went at once to Chicago, and commenced the active practice of his profession, in which he has been eminently successful. He at one time held the honorable and responsible position of corporation counsel for the city. He is now one of the justices of the superior court for Cook county, Illinois. (See biographical sketch .)

Albert E. Pillsbury was born in Milford, August 18, 1849; he was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1870, and has since been in active practice in Boston. He has held the office of attorney-general for Massachusetts, and taken a leading part in many of the most important trials in that commonwealth, civil and criminal, for the past five and twenty years. (See biographical sketch.)

ATTORNEYS WHOSE EARLY LIFE WAS SPENT IN MILFORD, ALTHOUGH NOT NATIVES OF THE TOWN.

John P. Towne was born in Bow, N. H., June 12, 1826. He came to Milford with his father, Jonathan Towne, when less than four years of age, settling upon the Towne estate upon the Nashua road. He was a resident here until he graduated at Norwich university, Vermont, in 1852. Soon after he became a citizen of Edgerton, Wis., which has ever since been his place of residence, and where he has had an unusually long and successful law practice.

So far as the writer can learn, Mr. Towne has given but little attention to politics, but has found time, during his long residence in Wisconsin not only to attend to a numerous professional clientage, but has identified himself with the educational interests of his adopted state. For many years he was connected with the bank of the city of Edgerton, and for a time was its president.

Mr. Towne must be counted among the strong men which Milford has sent out.

Edward B. Knight, the youngest son of Asa and Melinda (Adams) Knight, was born in Hancock, N. H., August 22, 1834. When about four years old his father settled upon a farm in the southwest part of the town, upon which young Knight resided with his parents until he became a student at New London academy. He graduated from Dartmouth college in 1861, and in due time was admitted to the bar of New Hampshire. He opened an office in Dover, but his stay there was short, for in 1865 he was offered a partnership in an old and established law firm in Charleston, W.

Va., which he accepted, and at once moved to the place, where he continued in the active practice of his profession until January 1, 1892, when his health, suffering from too close and constant application, compelled his retirement from professional work. He died, December 16, 1897.

The last five years of his life he spent the summers in New London, in his cottage overlooking Lake Sunapee; the winters in his Charleston home, and in travel.

The following is an editorial notice in the *Charleston Daily Gazette* of December 16, 1897:

The death of Edward Boardman Knight is a positive loss to the community. He was a man of high character, unusual attainments, great public spirit, and gentle disposition. By universal consent he was regarded as the head of the Charleston bar, and though he had retired from active practice for some years past, his influence with the members of his profession was potent to the end. Intellectually strong, and forceful in affairs, Mr. Knight was nevertheless gentle and tender in his relations with all humanity. If he ever had an enemy, it is not known in the community where Mr. Knight was best known. He leaves behind him nothing more hurtful to his memory than the earnest respect and the abiding affection of every person who ever came in contact with him. By his death the bar of Charleston loses its foremost member, and the city its most respected citizen.

The historian was well acquainted with Mr. Knight as a young man, and occasionally met him during the thirty-six years which followed his graduation from college, and testifies to the truthfulness of the obituary notice.

It is not easy to say whether Mr. Knight showed greater excellence as a lawyer or as an advocate.

Fred S. Hatch, a native of Lyndeborough, became a resident of Milford at an early age; he was a graduate of the high school of this town, and after three years of study was admitted to the bar of Hillsborough county. After a successful practice of several years in Exeter, he removed to the town of Larned, Pawnee county, Kan., where he took a good position as a lawyer. He is now practising his profession in Columbus, Ohio.

Albert E. Hadlock was born in Amherst, N. H., February 9, 1863. Not long after, his father's family removed to Milford. He graduated from the Milford high school in 1880; he completed his preparation for college at Exeter academy, and graduated with high rank from Dartmouth college in 1887; was valedictorian of his class. He graduated from the Harvard Law school in 1893; he was admitted to the bar of the state of New York in 1894; he became a member of the law firm of Pinney, Thayer & Hadlock in 1896; he was assistant to the district attorney of Richmond county, N. Y., in 1896-'97, and continues in the successful practice of his profession in the city of New York.

William T. Gunnison was born in Greenville, Miss., September 22, 1869. His parents were of Northern birth, his mother being the youngest daughter of the late Daniel Putnam. Upon the death of his father, which occurred while William was a child, his mother returned, with her children, to her ancestral home. He was educated in the Milford schools, Phillips Exeter academy, and at Dartmouth college, graduating with good rank from the latter institution in 1892. He graduated from Harvard Law school in June, 1895, and was at once admitted to the New Hampshire bar. He is now a member of the well-known Strafford county law firm of Felker & Gunnison, located in the city of Rochester, N. H.

Thomas Leonard Livermore, son of Thomas Adkins Livermore, and grandson of Solomon K. Livermore, was born at Galena, Ill., February 7, 1844. Upon the death of his mother he came to Milford, making his home with his paternal grandparents. He was educated in the public schools of Milford, Appleton academy, Mont Vernon, and Lombard university, Galesburg, Ill.

At the close of the war, in which he rendered distinguished service, he studied law with Bainbridge Wadleigh in Milford, and was admitted to the Hillsborough county bar in January, 1868. For a few months he was a partner with Mr. Wadleigh, but soon removed to Boston, where he remained in active practice until 1879. From that time until 1885 he was manager of the works and land and waterpower of the Amoskeag Manufacturing company at Manchester. At the close of this important service he returned to the active practice of the law in Boston, and continued to practise in partnership with Frederick P. Fish, and later with him and William K. Richardson until

November, 1889, when he was made vice-president of the Calumet and Hecla Mining company, and assumed the duties of manager of its commercial and financial affairs.

Colonel Livermore's success as the administrator of the affairs of great corporations may give the impression that he should be catalogued with men who have distinguished themselves in great business enterprises, but the fact remains, that, before development of ability in this direction, he had won for himself a leading position at the Massachusetts bar.

Charles J. Hamblett was born in Nashua, May 23, 1858. When five years of age his parents removed to Milford, where the family had been domiciled for two generations. He attended the Milford schools and completed his studies at Francestown academy; studied law with Robert M. Wallace of Milford and Bainbridge Wadleigh of Boston, and was graduated from the Boston University of Law in 1889. The same year he opened a law office in Nashua, and now has a large general practice. Has served four years as solicitor of the city of Nashua. Was appointed United States district attorney by President McKinley in March, 1898.

Jeremiah J. Doyle was born in New Boston, N. H., June 23, 1861. When he was a mere boy his parents removed to the settlement which grew up in the neighborhood of the Souhegan cotton mill. This collection of houses is partly in the town of Milford and partly in the town of Amherst, but its school and business interests are closely connected with the former place. As the historian recollects, the Doyle house was very near the line on the one side or the other. For the purposes of this sketch it will be assumed that the house, which was the home of young Doyle during his minority, was in whole or in part in the town of Milford.

He received the benefit of its schools, but was obliged to leave the High school a few months before what would otherwise have been the time of his graduation, in order that he might aid his parents by the product of his manual labor.

In 1881 he became a student in the office of George B. French in Nashua, and was admitted to the bar, August 25, 1884. For the larger part of three years, during which he was connected with Mr. French's office, he was a student at the University Law school in Boston, leaving that institution but a short time before his class graduated in order that he might take the examination for admission to the New Hampshire bar. Upon his admission M. Doyle at once opened an office in Nashua and entered upon a successful legal career.

Mr. Doyle's experience illustrates what can be accomplished by a young man of good natural ability who is determined to overcome all obstacles which may lie in his pathway.