BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF

SOME OF THE MOST PROMINENT

OF THE

EARLY AND RECENT CITIZENS OF CAMDEN.

Lieut. J. Harkness — Capt. W. McGlathry — S. Jacobs, Esq. — D. Barrett — M. Trussell — E. Wood — B. Silvester — B. Cushing, Esq. — J. Hathaway, Esq. — Dr. J. Patch — Col. E. Foote — Dr. J. Huse — Capt. C. Curtis — R. Chase, Esq. — N. Martin, Esq. — W. Parkman, Esq. — A. Bass — Maj. E. Hanford — J. Nicholson — F. Hall, Esq. — Hon. J. Hall — Hon. J. Thayer — Capt. W. Norwood — F. Jacobs — Gen. A. H. Hodgman — Hon. J. Wheeler — J. Jones — S. Barrows, Esq. — N. Dillingham — Dea. J. Stetson — Hon. B. J. Porter — Capt. S. G. Adams — Dr. J. H. Estabrook — Hon. E. K. Smart — Hon. M. C. Blake.

IN glancing at the history of Camden, we find the names of a number of persons, whose prominence as citizens, entitles them to more than the passing notice we have given them. It will be found that this town has contributed, quite largely, its share of those who have filled important positions, in both civil, and social life. Such ones may be deemed worthy of a biographical sketch. There are others, also, whose personal reputation has been known but little beyond the limits of their town, whom we shall notice, as being deserving of mention from the interest that attaches to them locally.

In the order of time, without classification, we will now

proceed. First on the list, occurs the name of *Lieut. John Harkness*, who was born in Lunenburg, Mass., June, 1750. At the age of eighteen, he commenced learning the shoemakers' trade at New Ipswich, N. H. Soon after serving an apprenticeship in St. Crispin's art, the war cloud of the Revolution began to darken, and, like a patriot, Harkness enlisted for the struggle under Capt. Ezra Towne, in the capacity of a lieutenant. He participated in the battles of Bunker Hill, and Ticonderoga. So close was one of his engagements with the enemy, that the tow wad of a gun lodged in his cockade hat, where it burned a perforation. The hardship he underwent, induced an attack of the fever and ague, which so far impaired his health, as to unfit him for further military duty. Being advised to recruit his strength by visiting the sea coast, he embarked in a vessel for Lermond's Cove, (now Rockland,) and in 1779 came to Camden.

Soon after he settled here, an expedition of twenty patriots from the vicinity of Lermond's, and Clam Cove, resolved on inflicting upon Gen. Thomas Goldthwait, a noted tory, who then resided in Hampden, we think, due chastisement for the obnoxious manner in which he proved his disloyalty to the American cause. Thinking favorably of the plan proposed to get rid of the annoying General, Harkness entered heartily into the scheme, and joined the party. Approaching the General's dwelling at night, they were discerned by the inmates, consisting of the General, wife and two daughters, and Archibald Bowles, his son-in-law, who at once fled to the woods for safety. After the manner of the times of war, the house was then ransacked of its valuables, and the cattle* driven from the barn, after which the party proceeded homeward with their spoil. A book there obtained by Mr. Harkness, containing Gen. Gold-

* These cattle being a superior English breed were afterwards used in this vicinity for the improvement of stock.

thwait's* autograph, is now in possession of his descendants, who properly regard it as a choice relic. We are not aware that this raid has been noticed in print before. For reasons quite apparent, the expedition was kept a secret for some years, by those who were engaged in it.

After the close of the war, Mr. Harkness was married to Miss Elizabeth Ott, by whom he had six children.

Mr. H. had a great fondness for books as is illustrated in this instance: at the time the Federal library was established, he read night and day for a week, without sleep, until he completed reading Rollins' Ancient History.

In his day, Mr. Harkness was quite a prominent, as well as useful citizen in this town. For a number of years he was town clerk, and selectman, and representative to the General Court. He died of a cancer, May 14, 1806. On his tombstone, in the Rockport cemetery, are the following quaint lines:

"Come, honest sexton, take thy spade,
And let my grave be quickly made.
Thou still art ready for the dead—
Like a kind host to make their bed:
I now am come to be thy guest,
In some dark lodging give me rest,
For I am weary, full of pain,
And of my pilgrimage complain:
On Heaven's decree I waiting lie
And all my wishes are to die."

His wife survived him half a century, and died Nov. 9, 1856, aged 92 years.

Capt. William McGlathry, was born in Belfast, Ireland, and was of what is commonly called, the Scotch-Irish stock. He came to Bristol with his parents when a boy, where

* It will be recollected that Col. G. was for some time, previous to this, commandant at Fort Point. On making his escape to the Provinces, with other tories, at the conclusion of the war, the vessel was shipwrecked, and he was lost.

they settled. Capt. McGlathry derived his title from being master of a vessel. An interesting incident is related of him while he was in command of a vessel during the Revolution. At that time, his vessel was captured by a British privateer, when three men were put on board to carry her as a prize into Halifax. Capt. McGlathry being manacled, was placed on the quarter deck. On revolving in his mind how he might effect an escape, he hit upon the following expedient. The water cask being within his reach, he managed to turn the bung-side down, without being observed, so that the contents run out. The prize-master soon after found there was nothing on board with which thirst could be slaked, and not knowing the whereabouts of any fresh water, he began to find the necessity of having some one besides his ignorant crew, to guide him to a watering place.

McGlathry being the only one who was conversant with the coast, was entrusted with the helm for the purpose of steering for the nearest place for a supply. It being very foggy, McGlathry carried the vessel into Machias, and, before his captors were aware, they found he had placed them in a position, which, in turn, changed their relation to that of prisoners of war, by being seized by a small number of the citizens of that place. Soon after regaining his former position, Capt. McGlathry directed his course for home, where he arrived in safety.*

Capt. McGlathry came to Camden about the year 1790, and purchased his land of Jos. Eaton, which extended from the shore, (just back of the Mountain House,) to Mount Batty, we think. He erected the building now known as the "Clay House," situated near the brick school-house — where he resided. For several years he was one of the selectmen. In 1798–99, he removed to Frankfort. He had six children — five sons and one daughter; all are now

* Related by Dr. J. H. Estabrook.

dead but one son and the daughter. Capt. McGlathry died in 1834, aged 85 years.

Samuel Jacobs, Esq. Mr. Jacobs was born in Scituate, Mass., March 4, 1762, and by trade was a shipwright. He came to this town about the year 1792. He was twice married; his first wife was Margaret Stinson, and his second Margaret McGlathry. The place still known as the "Jacob's farm" was possessed by him, upon which he erected the house now owned by N. C. Fletcher, Esq. Mr. Jacobs was the first representative sent by this town to the General Court. For a number of years he was selectman, Justice of the Peace and Quorum. By his position and influence, Squire Jacobs was one of the leading citizens of this town. His name is found connected with the most important business and other transactions mentioned in the town records. By his second wife, he had five children, all of whom lived to adult age, viz.: Samuel, Frederick, (who married Julia, daughter of Benj. Cushing, Esq.,) Bela, and Caroline, (who married Dr. J. H. Estabrook.) His daughter is the only surviving member of the family. Mr. Jacobs died Sept. 5, 1809.

Moses Trussell, son of Joshua, was born in Haverhill, Mass., March 27, 1766. He was the eldest of a family of eleven, the most of whom, moved to Sedgwick. He came to Camden about the year 1792, and in company with his brother Joshua, carried on the Molineaux mills, in which they lost $1000 each at the time of the embargo. March 4, 1793, he was married to Miss Betsey Knight of Lincolnville, by whom he had nine children. In the year 1800, he was chosen town clerk; in 1810 was succeeded by C. Curtis; again chosen in 1813, and held the office until 1821, when Frye Hall was elected. His excellence as a penman, is remarkable, from the fact that he never had but two months schooling in his life, for which he paid by working the same length of time at Bluehill, when a young man. In 1804 was chosen as one of the selectmen, and

held that position for sixteen years. For several years he went as representative to the General Court. Mr. Trussell was a man of good natural abilities — had a rare talent for music, and excelled as a singer. Although his position in life was not elevated, as regards means, yet he was universally respected as a citizen, for his probity of character. About the year 1824, he removed to Orland, where his widow now survives him.

Daniel Barrett, was born in Concord, Mass. He came to Camden about the year 1792–93. August 4, 1794, he married Peggy Grose. Purchasing lands of Molineaux on Beauchamp Neck, he there erected a house, and carried on the farming business. As before stated, Mr. Barrett projected the plan of forming the turnpike, which deed alone, will transmit his name to posterity. The characteristics most prominent in Mr. Barrett, were his scheming proclivities, his energy, industry, and rectitude of character. A legal gentleman in speaking to the writer about the subject of this sketch, remarked upon an instance of his exactness, as illustrated in a clause of a deed conveying land from him to members of his family. Said property was to be owned by them or their heirs, in the language employed, "as long as oaks grow and water runs." Being of a retiring disposition, he seldom allowed himself to be chosen to any town office, and when he acted in any public capacity, it was not of his own choosing, but of those who appreciated his sound judgment and good sense. He was a disciple of Wesley for over half a century, and as such died Dec. 1, 1850, at the age of 90 years. Of his twelve children, eight are living.

Ephraim Wood, was born in Concord, Mass. His father, of the same name, was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Middlesex County. Mr. Wood came to Camden near the year 1795. Being a clothier by trade, he erected a mill on the site now occupied by Alden & Batchelder's block mill, where he sucessfully prosecuted his business.

Enjoying a large degree of the confidence of his townsmen, he was by them many times chosen as selectman, and appointed on important town committees, and, for two years, represented the town in the State Legislature. The most prominent traits in his character, were his firmness of purpose, reliability of judgment, and integrity of mind. A consistent member of the Baptist church, he was foremost in supporting, by his means and influence, its various institutions. Mr. Wood was thrice married, and had twelve children, four by each wife; seven of whom are living. One of his sons, Nathaniel, graduated at Waterville College, and is now pastor of the Baptist church in that town. Mr. Wood died Jan. 7, 1853, aged 79 years.

Belcher Silvester, (or *Sylvester*, as it was sometimes spelled,) was born in Hanover, Mass., in 1765, and by trade was a cabinet maker. He came to Camden in 1795. An old resident informs us, that in those days, a barrel of rum and a piece of India cotton, were deemed sufficient to commence business with, and such a beginning was that of Mr. Sylvester, when he commenced trading here. He opened trade near where the woolen factory stands and afterward built a store on the site now occupied by Capt. Caleb Thomas' building. He also built the building now occupied by Messrs. Daniels and Currier. As he accumulated money, he invested it in landed property, with which he made lucrative speculations. Mr. S. was a man of very steady habits; more ambitious to acquire wealth, than to enjoy distinction of any kind; somewhat eccentric in his ways, and disinclined to mingle in society. Acquiring a competency, he removed to his native town, about the year 1820, where he spent the remainder of his days, surrounded by his relations, and the associates of his early years. He was never married, and, at the time of his death, which occurred May 11, 1849, he was estimated to be worth $80,000.

Benjamin Cushing, Esq., was born in Hanover, Mass.,

in 1774. He was a son of Hon. Joseph Cushing, who was Judge of Probate for Plymouth county.*

The subject of this sketch came to Camden in the year 1794, in company with his brother Joseph, and entered into trade in the store previously occupied by Dergen, on the site where Capt. Thomas' store stands, and afterwards traded in the E. C. Daniels' store, and subsequently built and occupied, as a store, the Hunt building. After the death of Mr. Hathaway, (his brother-in-law,) he succeeded to the office of post-master, which position he held from the year 1800 to 1830. In speaking of the mail arrangements in early times, Mr. Cushing informs us, that the mail carrier used to arrive once a week, at no particular hour of the day; for it was considered punctual if it arrived within the bounds of the appointed day. The salary of a post-master here was about $6 a quarter, when Mr. C. first became an incumbent of the office. Oct. 21, 1800, he was married to Miss Jane Eaton of this town, by whom he had five daughters. While in trade, he engaged largely in ship-building,† which business he was concerned in for many years. He was one of the selectmen, from 1799 to 1802, and subsequently Justice of Peace. After the State was divided, he went one year as Representative to Portland. As we have before stated, Mr. C. was one of the hostages who went to Castine during the "last war" with England. Retiring from business some years since, with a competency, this venerable citizen still lives at an advanced age, in the enjoyment of ordinary health, and the possession of faculties comparatively good.

John Hathaway, Esq., son of Abraham Hathaway of

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* For further notice of Judge Cushing, we would refer the reader to Barry's History of Hanover, p. 110; for a genealogical sketch of the family, to p. 289.

† The first vessel built in Camden was by Howland Rogers, who died in Medford, Mass., March 1, 1814, aged 50 years.

Raynham, was born in Wrentham, Mass.; graduated at Brown University, and, while teaching school, studied law with Judge Benj. Whitman, of Hanover. Soon after completing his legal studies, he decided, on the representation of friends who had settled here, to come to Camden, which he did in 1796. There being no lawyer here, he was the first one to enter upon the practice. Being satisfied with the prospect before him, he determined to take up his permanent abode here, and with this view, he was married to Miss Deborah Cushing, (sister of Benj. C.) of Hanover, Sept. 21, 1797. For a law office, he built the small building adjoining Mr. S. Hunt's harness shop. Succeeding Mr. Eaton as post-master, he attended to the duties of that office, in addition to his regular business. By doing business in the courts for the Twenty Associates, he soon became quite extensively known, and rapidly obtained the confidence, and esteem of his senior brethren of the bar. The appreciation in which his talents and abilities were held by those who had occasion to resort to the constraints of law, is readily seen by the amount of practice he had at the courts in the different parts of the State. As a pleader, he was forcible in argument, and eloquent in style, and almost invariably engaged the attention of his auditors, to the close of his plea. His healthy constitution inspiring in him a confidence of life being continued many years, he laid out his plans accordingly. While having the house erected where E. Cushing, Esq., lives, he was taken ill with typhus fever, which terminated his life Oct. 6, 1799, at the early age of 26 years. He had one son, who was lost at sea when 23 years old. Mr. Hathaway's widow, who was born in 1771, still survives, to whom we are indebted for the principal facts in this sketch.

Jacob Patch, M. D., was born in Groton, Mass., and graduated at Dartmouth college. Came to Camden about the year 1800. Nov. 12, 1806, he was married to Miss

Rebekah Woods of Dunstable, Mass. The Doctor's *forte* was in teaching school, and not a few of those of our citizens who have attained eminence in their chosen pursuits, attribute their success, to the early training they received under the tuition of Dr. Patch. For a number of years, he was one of the superintending town school committee. As a medical practitioner, he never stood in the front rank, which he might have done, had his practical understanding and skill, corresponded with his deep reading and extensive theoretical knowledge. In case the utility of any of his prescriptions, or modes of treatment, were called in question, he was ever ready, from his abundant information, to quote any number of medical authorities in support of his procedure. The Doctor's individuality often exhibited itself through his eccentricities, which were the natural outgrowth of his peculiar temperament and disposition. Delighting in numismatics, he made an extensive collection of rare coins of every description, many of which are now in the cabinet of a somewhat enthusiastic antiquary. He had 150 gold coins, of as many different kinds.

Characteristic of the Doctor, is the following incident: — At one time, he was going to Boston in a vessel, but missing of his passage by her sailing before the hour, he at once started for his destination on foot, and, though a very inert man, arrived there before the captain reached the harbor. In like manner he returned.

He died without issue, June 23, 1846, aged 73 years. His relict deceased April 18, 1854, at the age of 73 years.

Colonel Erastus Foote, was born, it is believed, in Gill, Mass. From a sketch of his life in the *Maine Evangelist* of Aug. 2, 1856, and from an obituary notice prepared by his son soon after his decease, as well as from other sources, we have gathered what here follows. Through energy and industry, Col. Foote became his own educator, without entering the precincts of a college. Studying law under Hon. Samuel Hinkley of Northampton, he was admitted to the

bar in 1800, during which year, he took up his abode in Camden, where he immediately commenced a successful practice. In 1811, he was appointed County Attorney for Lincoln County. In 1812 elected Senator of the Legislature of Massachusetts. During the war of 1812–14, he was commissioned as Colonel of the fifth regiment, in which relation he is often mentioned in our sketches of that period. After serving this town as a valuable citizen in various positions of public confidence, Col. Foote removed to Wiscasset in 1815. In 1820 he was chosen Senator of the Legislature of Maine, then organized as a new State, and same year was appointed, by Gov. King, Attorney General of Maine. This office he held twelve years, and gave tone and character to the criminal jurisprudence which were honorable to him, and highly appreciated by the public. The late distinguished Chief Justice Mellen had a high opinion of Col. Foote's talents and learning in that department of the judiciary, and the eloquent Benjamin Orr, then at the head of the bar in Maine, used to say "it is almost impossible to wrest a criminal out of the hands of brother Foote." Yet no man could be more kind where he thought an individual was unjustly suspected, or vindictively accused. He was the prosecutor of the *guilty*, but not the persecutor of the poor and friendless. As a counselor and advocate, he stood in the foremost rank of jurists, and that, too, at a time when there were many talented men, and sound special pleaders in the State, and before the profession was thrown open to illiterate purveyors of suits, and to those who practice a mere brokerage of emolument. He was a man of fine endowments by nature, and had made the criminal law, in all its history and relations, the study of his life. He was fundamentally, and historically prepared, for all possible turns which his case might take, for all bars and objections, that might suddenly be disclosed. His own understanding, penetrated deeply the questions in issue, he was learned in criminal precedents, and knew

where he was strong, or where he was weak. He was accustomed to contend with the ablest lawyers, but with a perfect mastery of his cases he had confidence in himself; was cogent in argument, terrible in sarcasm, often lofty and powerful in eloquence. Col. Foote was twice married, both wives being accomplished daughters of Maj. Carlton of Wiscasset. Than was Col. Foote in his family, no father could be more deeply respected, or fondly loved. He was a genial man, a gentleman of the "old school," of urbane manners, of dignity of bearing, and of virtue of character. He died at Wiscasset, July 14, 1856, aged 78 years.

Joseph Huse, M. D., was born in Methuen, Mass. After completing his academic course at the Atkinson, (Mass.,) academy, he commenced the study of medicine under Dr. Osgood of Andover, with whom he remained three years, after which, he rode one year with Dr. Frank Kitteridge of Tewksbury, Mass. He came to Camden, probably in 1796, during which year, he married Lydia Page of Warren. She dying the following year, he married Lucy Stimson of Camden, in 1800, who now survives him. They had no children. A whig in politics, he was a member of the electoral college of Maine in 1840. Dr. Huse was popular as a physician, and acquired an extensive practice in his profession, which he followed for half a century. In his latter years, he placed more reliance on proper nursing, than in the use of medicine. He was particularly successful in his treatment of fevers, in the subduing of which, he derived quite a reputation. Possessed of good perceptive, and ordinary reflective powers, Dr. Huse evidenced these endowments of nature, by a uniform, and unostentatious life. Having amassed a competence, he died June 30, 1847, aged 74 years.*

Capt. Calvin Curtis was born in Hanover, October 23,

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* A biographical sketch of Dr. Huse will be found in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of August 18, 1847.

1777. His father, who was of the same name, held a captain's commission in the Revolution. [See History of Hanover, chap. viii.] By trade, Capt. Curtis was a carpenter. He came to Camden in 1799, and engaged in his occupation. In 1805 he was appointed Inspector at this port, which office he held until his death. In 1806 he was married to Miss Mary Harkness of Camden, who was born in 1785, and still survives him. In 1810, was chosen town clerk, in which capacity he served several years. March 7, 1811, was commissioned by Gov. E. Gerry as captain of a company of light infantry in this town. His connection with military affairs, has often been mentioned in our sketches of the period of the last war with England. He resigned his military commission in 1815, we think. He had three sons, one of which, John H., now occupies the homestead. Capt. Curtis deceased in 1828.

Robert Chase, Esq., was born in Exeter, N. H., November, 1782. After serving an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, in Portsmouth, he made a "prospecting" tour eastward. Arriving at Camden, in March, 1803, he here found employment, and without proceeding further, concluded to become a permanent resident of the place. Agreeably to this decision, he became united by marriage to Miss Betsey Holt, of old York, on the 26th of January, 1806, by whom he had eight children, seven of whom are now living. In 1811, he was chosen third selectman, and in 1813, first selectman, which position he held until 1824. He was several times afterwards chosen selectman, making in all, something like nineteen years in which he served in that capacity. It will be recollected that he was one of the hostages on board the British frigate Furieuse, in 1814. The town refusing to compensate the hostages for the pecuniary loss they suffered, by being detained from their business, the amount was made up by private subscription,

as we find by the subscription paper now before us.* In 1836 and 1837, he represented this town in the Legislature.

Mr. Chase was a very systematic man, and correct in his calculations, and, possessing a very tenacious memory, he filled, with satisfaction, the many positions of confidence his townsmen placed him in by their voluntary votes. While at work in his shop, May 1, 1852, he died by an apoplexy, at the age of 70 years.

Nath'l Martin, Esq., was born in London, and came to America when a boy. Arriving at adult age, he settled on Fox Island, where he traded until 1803, when he came to Camden, and went into trade. In 1804 we find he was chosen harbor master. January 11, 1806, he was married to Miss Rhoda Foote, sister to Col. Foote, by whom he had three sons and one daughter. He acted a conspicuous part in the embargo times, the period of the last war with his father country, and in fact in every important affair in which the interest of a public spirited citizen would be enlisted. He often presided as moderator at town meetings, was chosen a number of times to represent the town at the General Court; was elected delegate to the convention that assembled in Portland, October 11, 1819, for the purpose

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* The above mentioned subscription paper, being an interesting scrap of history, we will here copy the heading of it, which appears to have been drawn up by Judge Thayer, whose widow possesses the document. "Whereas, the sum of $146,28 has been expended in attempting to effect the liberation of Messrs. Cushing and Chase, late on board the British frigate Furieuse as hostages. Each of the undersigned, therefore, wishing that the above expenses should be paid, and wishing, likewise, that Mr. Chase should be paid the further sum of $50, for his time and expenses while a hostage as aforesaid, promise to pay the sum set against his name for the purpose of defraying the above expenses, and paying Mr. Chase for his time and expenses as above stated. Feb. 7, 1815." The sum subscribed amounts to $201. The autographs are a curiosity of themselves.

of forming a constitution for the State of Maine; was selectman a number of years; in fact, occupied and *filled* every office of trust within the power of a town to confer upon a citizen. To the regret of his many friends, he so far suffered himself to be led by Bacchus, as to materially affect his business, and cause him to seek to retrieve his fortune, by leaving here in 1823, and becoming a commission agent in New York city. While acting in that capacity, he introduced eastern lime into the market there, which soon superseded that of the North river quarries, on account of its superior qualities. Mr. Martin's sisters, Penelope and Catherine, will be remembered by many, as having been accomplished teachers of a female school in Portland, which they taught for about thirty years. In his palmiest days, Mr. Martin was considered as a perfect gentleman, so far as manners were concerned. The time of his death we cannot ascertain.

Capt. Noah Brooks, was born in Scituate, Mass. [For an account of his ancestors, see Deane's History of Scituate, p. 224, note.] He came to Camden in 1806, and being a ship-wright by trade, commenced the ship-building business, in connection with Benj. Cushing, and afterwards carried it on, on his own account. He married Miss Esther Stetson of Scituate, by whom he had eight children, six of whom survive. During the last war with England, he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in Capt. Asha Palmer's infantry company in this town. In 1819, he removed to East Boston, where he carried on ship-building for a number of years. While living there, he was elected a member of the city council, and, afterward, a representative to the Massachusetts Legislature. In 1842, or 1843, he retired from business, and removed to Dorchester, where he built a fine residence. He died near the year 1852, worth about $60,000. His widow still survives.

William Carleton, Esq., was born in Methuen, Mass., and came to Camden, probably, in 1806, where he com-

menced the mercantile business. For his first wife, he married a Miss Mirick, and, for his second wife, Betsey Crowell, both of Princeton, Mass. He had eight children, all of whom were sons. During the war of 1812–14, he was Adjutant of the fifth regiment. He carried on the mercantile business at the Harbor, (on the spot where Mr. J. C. Stetson trades,) until about the year 1838, when he removed to the River, and there continued to trade. Mr. Carleton was a very enterprising, and far-seeing man, and in whatever position he was placed, whether as Adjutant, County Commissioner, President of the Bank, or committee on town accounts, he discharged the duties resting upon him, with ability and satisfaction. He died March 4, 1840, aged 61. His widow is now the wife of Rev. Job Washburn, and still resides on the old homestead.

William Parkman, Esq., was a native of Concord, Mass., and was a cousin of the late Samuel Parkman, Esq., of Boston. He came to this town about the year 1800, after previously residing in Lincolnville, where he married his wife. By trade he was a joiner, and in that capacity he went in the ship "Massachusets," on a voyage to Canton, in early life. He was, for many years, an agent for the "20 Associates." For several years he was selectman. He died Dec. 24, 1839, aged 70. His wife, Sarah, died Nov. 3, 1855, aged nearly 84.

Alden Bass, was born in Hanover, Mass., Jan. 30, 1776;* came to Camden about the year 1800, where, as a house carpenter, he commenced working at his trade. March 5, 1802, he married Miss Rhoda Tyler, a native of Methuen. By her, he had four children, two sons and two daughters, three of whom survive. He cast one of the two first votes thrown in this town by the Republican party in opposition

* A genealogical record of Mr. Bass' ancestors will be found in the History of Hanover, pp. 244, 245, and also in Thayer's Family Memorial.

to the Federalists. He was quite an earnest partizan, and, as a leader in his party, he was elected representative to the General Court in 1814. At the time of the arrangement of parties, in 1825, he identified himself with the Whig party, with which he afterwards acted. But his *forte* was in being a finished workman, in his chosen pursuit, which he industriously followed through life. He died Oct. 26, 1851.

Maj. Edward Hanford, it is believed, was born in Norwalk, Conn. He came to Camden about the year 1806, and, being a hatter, worked at his trade. He afterwards went into trade. In time of the "last war," he was a Lieutenant, and, after peace was proclaimed, he was promoted to the rank of Major. He was selectman one year, and town clerk four years, and occupied other town offices. Affected with a disease of the heart, it is supposed it induced the quietude of manners he evinced during the last score years of his life. He married a widow lady, by whom he had three daughters. He died in Belfast, at the house of L. R. Palmer, Esq., his son-in-law, May 3, 1851, aged 76 years. None of his family now survive.

John Nicholson. We cannot ascertain the birth-place of Mr. N., but know he was brought up by Col. Head, of Warren, in whose store he was a clerk for a number of years before coming to Camden. He came here about the year 1808–9, and commenced a West India Goods and Grocery store, where Mr. E. C. Daniels keeps. He afterwards built the "Norwood block," and there traded. He was one of the most enterprising traders in town, and was quite largely interested in navigation. We mentioned one of his transactions in the fourteenth number of these sketches. He married Miss Mary Hartwell of Princeton, Mass. Consumption enfeebling his body, he closed up his business near the year 1816, and sought for health by traveling south. But the change of climate was ineffectu-

al in arresting the progress of his disease, and he fell a victim to its power.

Frye Hall, Esq., was born in Methuen, Mass. He came to Camden, it is supposed, about the year 1806, in company with his brother Farnham, who traded here until after the war, and then removed to New York. Frye, being a tanner by trade, worked at the business a number of years, and then went to store-keeping, but without great success. In 1821, he was chosen town clerk, and served in that capacity until 1826. For a series of years, he was committee on accounts. About the year 1826, he removed to Hope, and resided there until 1827, when he was simultaneously elected County Treasurer and Register of Deeds of the then just formed County of Waldo. He then took up his residence in Belfast, where he remained until the close of his life. We think he held the office of Register of Deeds until 1847, but the length of time he was County Treasurer, we cannot now ascertain. Being a Mason, he had conferred upon him by that fraternity, the office of District Deputy Grand Master, which place he filled at the time of his death, which occurred in August, 1849, at the age of nearly 63 years. In Mr. Hall were combined the various valuable traits of a christian citizen. His surviving wife, by whom he had eleven children, (two of whom are dead,) was Eliza, daughter of Capt. John Pendleton of Camden.

Hon. Joseph Hall, brother to the preceding, was born in Methuen, June 26, 1793. In 1809, he left his native village and settled in Camden. With the exception of a few months passed at school in Andover, Mass., he was employed as clerk until he became of age. In 1813 he was elected an officer in the militia; was subsequently chosen Captain of Camden Light Infantry; soon after was elected Major, Lieutenant Colonel, then Colonel. During the war of 1812, he commanded a detachment of thirty men, and the parapets upon Eaton's and Jacob's Point, were erected under his supervision.

In 1816, Mr. Hall married Mary, the daughter of Capt. Nathan Howe of Shrewsbury, Mass.* In 1821 he was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Lincoln and Hancock Counties. His wife died in 1825, leaving six children. In 1827, Col. Hall was again married to Eliza, daughter of William Parkman, Esq., of this town. After Waldo County was formed, in 1827, Col. Hall received the appointment of Sheriff, and entered upon the duties of an organization of the County, in July of the same year. In 1830, he was appointed Post-master at Camden, and, in 1833, was elected the first Representative to Congress from Waldo District. In 1835 he was re-elected by an increased majority, and thus remained in Washington during the closing years of President Jackson's exciting administration. The post-master at Camden died in 1837, while in possession of the office, and at the solicitation of his friends, Col. Hall accepted again the position of post-master here.

In 1838, Col. Hall received the appointment of Measurer in the Boston Custom House, and retained the position until 1846, when the office of Navy Agent for the port of Boston was conferred upon him by his personal friend and associate in Congress, President Polk, without application on the part of Mr. Hall. In 1849, he was removed by President Taylor, on political grounds, and, in the fall of the same year, was the candidate of the Democratic party for Mayor of Boston, receiving the entire vote of the party in the city, a conclusive evidence of the high estimation attained by his residence in the metropolis of New England. In the winter of 1849, having purchased the farm of the late Capt. William Norwood at Camden, he returned thither with his family. In 1857, he was offered the position of Weigher, Measurer and Guager, in the Boston Cus-

* For a genealogical register of the family, see Ward's History of Shrewsbury, page 314.

tom House, by the present Collector, the Hon. Arthur W. Austin, which position he still retains.

By his second wife, Col. Hall has seven children, making the whole number thirteen, all of whom, with the exception of two by his first wife, still survive.

No citizen of Camden has filled so many offices of public trust, as the subject of this sketch, in all of which he has evinced an ability commensurate to the station. He has now attained to a venerable age, possessed of sound health, and in the full enjoyment of his faculties.

Hon. Jonathan Thayer, was born at Milford, Mass., Jan. 25, 1779, and graduated at Brown University, R. I., in 1803. After he had completed his collegiate course, he taught an academy for two years in Rhode Island, after which, he entered the office of Nathaniel Searl, an eminent lawyer of Providence, and, after reading law with him for two years, went to Norton and continued his studies under Hon. Laban Wheaton, another distinguished member of the legal profession, with whom he remained one year. In Sept. 1808, he was admitted to the bar at Taunton, Mass., and soon commenced practice at Dighton, where he remained for three years, and in 1811, removed to Camden.

In 1821, Mr. Thayer married Sophia, youngest daughter of Hon. Thomas Rice of Wiscasset. In 1825, he was elected a member of the Executive Council, and re-elected for three successive years. He served as one of the council of the lamented Lincoln, for whom he ever entertained the highest respect. He also served in the councils of Gov. Parris, between whom, and himself, there always existed a warm friendship. Gov. Parris was at one time Judge upon the Supreme bench, and they were long and intimately acquainted in court and council.

In 1831, he was appointed a County Commissioner, but that office not being congenial to his tastes, he resigned it, and the next year was elected Senator. In 1840, he was appointed Judge of Probate, by Gov. Fairfield, the duties

of which office, he performed for seven years with ability, and to the entire satisfaction of the public.

Judge Thayer was an effective debater; a gentleman of great reading, and of nice discrimination. He was a close student, and imbibed the principles of common law from its purest fountains — from the works of eminent English authors. For many years he had an extensive practice in Lincoln, Hancock, and Waldo. As counsel, he was often associated with, or pitted against gentlemen of much ability. His name will be found in the reports of cases, either as opposing, or associate counsel, with Allen, Crosby, Samuel Fessenden, Greenleaf, Longfellow, Orr, Ruggles, Wilson, Williamson, Wheeler, and others. In 1830, the Reports show that he was either for plaintiff or defendant, in every case argued before the Supreme Court, at Waldo bar.

While Judge Thayer was in full practice, many students-at-law, sought the advantage of his office and instruction. The following gentlemen availed themselves of his tuition: Thos. Bartlett, Esq.; Hon. Geo. M. Chase, late consul at Lahania, deceased; Waterman T. Hewett, Esq., deceased; Augustus C. Robbins, Esq., Col. E. K. Smart, his son-in-law, and N. T. Talbot, Esq., of Rockport.

For thirty-four years, Judge Thayer was a member of the Congregational church, but, although connected to a particular sect, he ever manifested towards other denominations, great charity and toleration for their opinions.

A week previous to his decease, he rose very early in the morning, with a view to take the steamer Daniel Webster for the city of Belfast. It being dark and rainy, he evidently mistook a platform in the ship-yard, for the sidewalk near the road, from which he fell, resulting in his death, which occurred Sept. 20, 1853, at the age of 74 years and 8 months.*

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* We have condensed the above from an obituary notice in the Christian Mirror of Oct. 18, 1853, written by Col. Smart. For

Capt. William Norwood, was born on Mt. Desert. Following the sea in early life, he settled in what is now North Haven, where, Jan. 8, 1804, he married Miss Deborah Winslow of that place, whose ancestors formerly resided on the place now known as the Daniel Webster farm in Marshfield. Not desiring to risk his property in so exposed a place as the islands, during the war, he removed to Camden in 1812, and entered into the commercial business. He first traded in the Stockbridge building, and afterwards purchased of Nicholson, the "Norwood block," as it is now called. He first resided in the old "mansion house," and afterwards bought the place now occupied by his son, Capt. W. A. Norwood. He also owned, and had carried on for him, the Col. Hall farm. Mr. Norwood was largely engaged in navigation and trade, to which he closely devoted his attention, with deserved success. Capt. Norwood had six children, four of whom now survive. He died May 24, 1824, aged 55 years. His wife deceased Jan. 6, 1849, aged 75 years.

Frederick Jacobs, son of Samuel, was born in Camden, and received his education under the tutoring of Dr. Patch, who, by the way, has instructed many of those who are now our most enterprising citizens. Mr. Jacobs commenced trade in Limerick, and afterwards returned to his native village, where he went into company with his brother Samuel, (who had studied for the bar,) and Watson Freeman, who is now United States Marshal of Massachusetts. They traded in the Daniels' building. In the monotonous life of a small sea-board-town trader, there is but little to call forth the highest latent energies of a man, and hence the superior natural abilities of Mr. Jacobs were not called into requisition, as they would have been, had

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resolutions passed at a meeting of the members of Waldo County bar, on the death of Judge Thayer, see Republican Journal of Oct. 21, 1853.

he lived in eventful times. Mr. Jacobs may be said to have been a man gifted physically and mentally, and was one of our most enterprising merchants. He married Julia, daughter of Benjamin Cushing, Esq., (who now survives him,) by whom he had six children. He died in 1834, aged 39 years.

Gen. Amos Hale Hodgman, was a son of Job Hodgman, one of the earliest settlers of Camden, who came from Mason, N. H. [See Hill's history of Mason, recently issued from the press, page 210.] He was born in Camden about the year 1792, and received his education from Dr. Patch, and served an apprenticeship at the clothier business, under Ephraim Wood. Soon after completing his trade, in 1814, he went to Warren, where he carried on the same craft on his own account. He next went into the mercantile business, and engaged quite largely in ship-building. In the meantime, the town was not unmindful of his abilities, and sent him for six successive years as representative, and two terms afterwards. In 1824, he was appointed as Justice of the Peace; in 1827, Colonel of the 14th Regiment, and was subsequently promoted to Brigadier General. He was also a member of the Governor's Council one year, and a delegate to the Convention that nominated Hon. Martin Van Buren, at Baltimore, in 1836. Belonging to the Masonic fraternity, he delivered an address before them, about the year 1830. In the enjoyment of his health and faculties, he has now retired from business, and resides in his adopted town, Warren. He has been twice married, and by both wives has had ten children.

Hon. Jonas Wheeler, son of Jotham Wheeler, was born in Concord, Mass., Feb. 9, 1789, and graduated at Harvard College, in 1810. In the following year he came to Camden, and read law with Erastus Foote, Esq., and settled in the profession in this town. He was Justice of the Peace; first Representative from this town to the State

Legislature, in 1820; Colonel in the militia, and member of the Senate of Maine, of which he was President the two last years of his life. As a politician, Col. Wheeler possessed in an eminent degree, the faculty of electioneering. As a barrister, he was not noted for brilliancy of talents, industry of research, or closeness of application. He was always averse to litigation, and uniformly discountenanced it. Being more successful as a counselor, than as an advocate, his name does not often occur in the Law Reports.

Sociable, generous, and free in his manners, he fell in with the ideas that then obtained, in indulging in "flexible and convivial habits," which was a detriment to his success. Colonel Wheeler was a man of fine feelings, and kind sympathies, by which he endeared himself to a large circle of friends. His office was in the Masonic building. He died, unmarried, May 1, 1826, aged 37 years.*

Joseph Jones, was born in Warren, Mass., Oct. 14, 1797. When he was three years old, his parents removed to St. Albans, Vt. He came to Camden in 1818, with scarcely any resources, save those of a resolute will, and a determined heart, and was employed by Nathaniel Martin, (who then kept in the Hunt block,) as a store clerk. Remaining with Martin about three years, he then went into business for himself. About the year 1824, he, in company with Dr. Jos. Huse, built the Sherman building, where he traded for a number of years, and then, (near the year 1833,) built the brick store now occupied by his sons. His taste was not in favor of public office, and hence his name does not flourish in that connection, except as Adjutant of the militia, and as President of the Megunticook bank. He was eminently a man of business, and, as such, will

* Shattuck, in his history of Concord, Mass., page 251, gives a brief sketch of Col. Wheeler, and incorrectly states that he was a "delegate to form the Constitution" of Maine.

always be regarded as being among the most enterprising of his class. In the aspect of character, he was a practical christian, and, without display, exercised the trait of benevolence, as well as the other virtues.

In July, 1851, Mr. Jones received a paralytic shock, since which time, he has been incapacitated for business. His wife, (who was Mary Ann, daughter of Mr. Nathan Brown,) died in 1847. Of his nine children, all are living but one.

Stephen Barrows, Esq., son of Banajah, is a native of this town. His father was born in Attleboro', Mass., and was one of the first settlers in the west part of Camden. The subject of this sketch occupied, for quite a number of years, the office of town clerk and selectman, and was also Justice of the Peace. While representative of this town, at Augusta, he was chosen Assistant Clerk of the House. For a year, we think, he was one of the Inspectors of the State Prison. For many years he has been one of the leading citizens of the western section of the town. At about the age of 68 years, he still lives on his farm, in Rockville, enjoying the meed of a life of industry and integrity.

Nathaniel Dillingham, son of Joshua, was born either in Bristol or in this town. His father came from Bristol, Me., and settled on the farm now owned by Mr. Henry Knight, on the post-road leading to Lincolnville,

The subject of this notice, married Miss Rachel Mirick of Princeton, Mass., by whom he has had six children, two of whom are living. Mr. D. was one of the selectmen from 1824 to 1831; and was committee on accounts a number of years. For several years he was cashier of Megunticook Bank. Being an excellent chirographer, and exact accountant, he often filled positions where he exercised, to public satisfaction, his aptitude in these acquirements. Though a farmer by occupation, he sometimes engaged himself as a clerk, when not occupied with the business of his

farm. In comfortable circumstances, he removed to Oldtown, about the year 1850, where he still resides.

Dea. Joseph Stetson, son of Micah, was born in Scituate, Mass., Jan. 1792. [For a genealogical register of the Stetsons, see Barry's "Records of the Stetson Family," and also History of Hanover, pp. 378–384.] He came to Camden in Jan. 1813, and returned to his native place in the following December. On his return, he went into the navy yard, at Charlestown, where he worked at his trade, that of a ship-carpenter. In Feb. 1814, he went to Lake Champlain, and there followed his occupation during the building of the American fleet. After the vessels of war were launched, he returned to Mass., and, in June, 1815, again came to Camden, where he became a permanent resident. He worked with Capt. Noah Brooks until 1819, when he married Mary, daughter of William and Lucy Eaton. The same year he went into the ship-building business, on his own account. During this year, he was chosen Captain of the Light Infantry company, which position he held for five years. Although he was not an aspirant for public office, he was sent by his party, (whig,) representative to the Legislature, in 1844. Mr. S. has superintended, as master, the building of something like 70 sail of vessels, ranging from 47, to 1200 tons burthen. Since 1824, he has been an acceptable member of the congregational church, of which he has been a deacon for quite a number of years. Of his ten children, seven are living.

Hon. Benjamin J. Porter, son of Maj. Billy Porter, was born in Beverly, Mass., Sept. 20, 1763. After completing his academical course at Byfield Academy, he commenced the study of medicine with his uncle, Doct. Jones. His uncle being engaged as surgeon in the Continental Army, in 1779, young Porter became surgeon's mate. It is believed, that he acted in that capacity in Lafayette's regiment. While in this position, he became acquainted with

many of the leading men of the Revolution. Among those with whom he was on intimate terms, were Generals Knox and Lafayette. At the close of the war, Doct. Porter went to Scarboro', where he practised medicine awhile and then went to Stroudwater, now Westbrook, where he remained several years, practising much of the time in Portland, with good success. Entering into partnership with Hon. Wm. King, (subsequently first Governor of Maine,) then of Scarboro', in the lumbering business, he removed to Topsham, where they carried on an extensive and lucrative business, in connection with the mercantile. Soon after forming a business partnership with Mr. King, he entered into a matrimonial partnership with his partner's sister, Elizabeth L. King. Messrs. King & Porter carried on the business until about the year 1810, when the former removed to Bath, and there formed another branch. By the freshet of 1814, on the Androscoggin river, Dr. Porter suffered a loss, in mills, lumber, and, as one of the proprietors of the bridge, of something like $80,000. During embargo times, his loss in navigation was also considerable. Previous to his misfortunes, he was chosen as one of the Massachusetts Governor's Counselors, and was also Senator from Lincoln County. When the separation occurred between Maine and Massachusetts, Dr. Porter was chosen as one of the commissioners to make a division of the property. In the fall of 1829, he removed from Topsham to Camden, where he remained until his death, which occurred August 18, 1847, at the age of 83 years and 11 months. Dr. Porter was a gentleman of rare conversational powers, and great suavity of manners. "As polite as Dr. Porter," was a rife saying. Of his six children, three are living, viz.: — Hon. Chas. R., of Bath; Rufus K. J., who lives in Kingfield, Me., and Benj. J., now postmaster in this town.

Capt. Samuel G. Adams, son of Joshua Adams, was born at Owl's Head, Thomaston, Sept. 28, 1803, and came

to Camden, Oct. 1821. He was clerk in the store of Benj. Cushing, Esq., until 1823, when he commenced on his own account. In 1827, he married Adeline Cushing, daughter of his former employer. Devoting his attention to the mercantile business with assiduity, he found but little time to suffer his name to be used as a candidate for town or other offices. Through the solicitation of friends, he accepted a Captain's position in the militia; was chosen selectman, and, in 1840, elected as town representative. Capt. Adams is extensively and favorably known through his connection with commercial affairs. He possesses those elements of character which invariably lead to success. Of his ten children, nine are living.

Joseph H. Estabrook, M. D., son of Rev. Joseph Estabrook, was born in Athol, Mass., in 1797, and graduated at Williams College in the class of 1818. In 1821, he came to Camden, and entered into the practice of his profession. In 1823, he married Caroline, daughter of Sam'l Jacobs, Esq. Of their nineteen children, twelve are living. Dr. Estabrook's reputation is confined principally to his profession, though not exclusively so. An adherent to the Whig party in politics, that then powerful organization in this State once evinced their appreciation of his abilities, by nominating him for State Senator. This mark of approval is not diminished by the fact that his party were unsuccessful in then electing their candidates. A strong token of the estimation in which he is held, by his professional brethren, is that of his having been elected by them, President of the Maine Medical Association, a few years since.

As a surgeon, Dr. Estabrook has but few superiors in this State, and as a physician, his name figures among the foremost in the Allopathic school. As the fruit of his extensive practice, he has acquired quite a wide repute as a consulting physician. For the past few years, he has had for a partner, his son, Theodore L. Estabrook, who is a graduate of the New York Medical University, of the class

of 1852–53. The latter is to deliver the annual address before the Maine Medical Association, which convenes at Waterville in the spring of 1859.

Hon. Ephraim K. Smart, son of Rev. E. K. Smart, a Methodist clergyman, was born in Prospect, (now Searsport,) in 1813. In 1831, his father met with a sudden death. A year after, his father's property was destroyed by fire, which consequently left the subject of our sketch, at the age of eighteen, without assistance or friends to aid him. Determined to obtain an education by his own exertions, he applied himself with diligence to his studies at home, and afterwards, for two years, placed himself under the tuition of Dr. Holmes, of Winthrop, and then went to the Maine Wesleyan Seminary at Readfield, where he remained five terms. In 1835, he came to Camden, and entered the law office of Hon. Jonathan Thayer, and after three years study, was admitted to the bar. He afterwards married Sarah, daughter of Judge Thayer. In 1838, was appointed post-master of Camden. In 1841, at the age of twenty-eight years, was elected to the Senate of Maine. Was appointed Aid-de-camp to Gov. Fairfield, with rank of Lieutenant Colonel, in 1842. The same year, he was re-elected to the Senate. In 1843, he went to the State of Missouri, and was admitted to the practice of law in that State, as an Attorney and Counselor at law and Solicitor in Chancery. In the following year, (1844) he returned to Camden, where he continued to practice in his profession. In 1845, he was re-appointed post-master of Camden. In 1847, he was elected to Congress, by the Democratic party, and returned by them to the same position in 1850. The marked ability with which Col. Smart served his constituents, while in Congress, shows that they did not over-estimate his talents. Soon after his term of office at Washington expired, in 1853, he was appointed Collector of Customs of Belfast District. While acting in this capacity, he established the *Maine Free Press* in 1854,

which he edited with much vigor, for about three years. His term of office, as Collector of Belfast, having expired by limitation, in 1858, he returned to the practice of law in Camden, in company with Thaddeus R. Simonton, Esq., a graduate of Bowdoin College, of the class of 1853.

Col. Smart's wife, by whom he had three children, two of whom survive, died in the spring of 1858, greatly beloved and respected by all.

Hon. Maurice C. Blake, son of the late Dr. Blake, of Otisfield, we think, graduated at Bowdoin College in 1838, soon after which he commenced the study of law in the office of Hon. Samuel Fessenden, of Portland. About the year 1841–42, he came to Camden and entered into the practice of his profession. In 1846, he was elected, by the Whig party, town representative. Under President Taylor's administration, he was appointed Collector of the Belfast Revenue District, which place he held for four years. Believing that a wide sphere of action would be more compatible with his taste, he started for California, in August, 1853, and arrived there in the ship "Whistler," the first part of November, after a passage of one hundred and thirty-one days. Taking up his residence in San Francisco, as a lawyer, he soon became identified with the interests of that city. Belonging to the renowned "Vigilance Committee," he was elected, principally through the suffrages of that organization, as a member of the Legislative Assembly from San Francisco, in 1857, which place he held for one year. In the following year, he was elected by the "Peoples' party," Judge of San Francisco County, and took his seat upon the bench, April 5, 1858, at a salary of $6000 per annum. Judge Blake is possessed of latent talents, which, when brought into exercise by opposition, reveal themselves to be of no inferior order. While a resident of this town, he maintained the reputation, which has since followed him, of being a man of un-

disputed integrity of character. As yet, he has never entered the "state matrimonial."

There are other gentlemen whose prominence, as citizens, suggests a continuation of these biographical delineations, but should we proceed further, we fear our eventual line of distinction could not be made without engendering in some minds a feeling akin to invidiousness, more than we may already have unconsciously enkindled. There are a number, undoubtedly, whom we may have passed over, without design, whose conspicuousness, as citizens, would entitle them to the same regard we have shown to some of their contemporaries. Such, and all other deficiencies observable, we submit to the charitableness of the discerner.