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FAMILIES
OF THE
WYOMING VALLEY

BIOGRAPHICAL, GENEALOGICAL, AND HISTORICAL.

SKETCHES OF THE BENCH AND BAR

OF LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

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BY
GEO. B. KULP,

HISTORIOGRAPHER OF THE WYOMING HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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"There be of them that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported.
And some there be which have no memorial; who are perished as though they had never been;
and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them."—*Ecclesiasticus*
(*Apocrypha*) XLIV: 8-9.

Books for Reference.
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IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.
5

WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA.

1890.



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FAMILIES
OF THE
WYOMING VALLEY.

By an Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed September 25, 1786, the county of Luzerne was formed, and embraced the greater portion of the lands settled by the New England emigrants. Prior to that time it was a portion of Northumberland county, Pa. While under the jurisdiction of Connecticut it was a portion of the town of Westmoreland, attached to the county of Litchfield, Conn., subsequently the county of Westmoreland, Conn. As claimed by Connecticut, Westmoreland was sixty by one hundred and twenty miles square, embracing over seven thousand square miles. This territory included the principal parts of the counties of Bradford, Clearfield, Columbia, Elk, Lackawanna, Luzerne, McKean, Montour and Wyoming; smaller portions of Centre, Northumberland, Susquehanna and Union, and the whole of Cameron, Lycoming, Potter, Sullivan and Tioga. It has a present population of one million souls. This is a goodly domain, and would have made a state larger in area and with a greater population than the present state of Connecticut. Three companies of troops were raised here for the continental establishment, and were part of the Twenty-fourth Regiment of the Connecticut line. This territory was claimed by both the states of Pennsylvania and Connecticut. The governor of Connecticut issued his proclamation forbidding any settlement in Westmoreland except under authority from Connecticut. About the same time the governor of Pennsylvania issued his proclamation, prohibiting all persons from settling on the disputed lands except under the authority of the proprietaries. In 1774 Zebulon Butler and Nathan Denison were commissioned under Connecticut as justices of the peace of the county of Litch-

field, with authority to organize the town. In March, 1774, the whole people of Westmoreland, being legally warned, met and organized the town, and chose selectmen, a treasurer, constables, collector of taxes, surveyor of highways, fence viewers, listers, leather sealers, grand jurors, tything men, sealer of weights and measures and key keepers. Eight town meetings were held in the year 1774. The conflict in title gave rise to numerous contests, in many instances leading to fatal results, and is known in history as the Pennamite and Yankee war. Promptly on the appearance of peace, after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Pennsylvania, by petition of her president and executive council, prayed congress to appoint commissioners "to constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in question agreeably to the ninth article of the confederation." Commissioners were appointed and met at Trenton, N. J., November 19, 1782. On December 30, 1782, they pronounced the following judgment: "We are unanimously of opinion that the state of Connecticut has no right to the land in controversy. We are also unanimously of opinion that the jurisdiction and preëmption of all the territory lying within the charter boundary of Pennsylvania and now claimed by the state of Connecticut do of right belong to the state of Pennsylvania." The Trenton decree settled the legal right as to the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. Clear, comprehensive and explicit, Pennsylvania was satisfied, and Connecticut submitted without breathing a sigh for the loss of so noble a domain, the right to which she had so strenuously maintained, or a murmur at a decision which seemed to the surrounding world so extraordinary. With the close of the year 1782, and the Trenton decree, the jurisdiction of Connecticut ceased, and the cheerful and salutary town meetings were no longer holden. While Luzerne county, or more properly Westmoreland, was under the jurisdiction of Connecticut, she sent the following persons as representatives to the Connecticut legislature, which met at Hartford and New Haven:

1774. Zebulon Butler, Timothy Smith, Christopher Avery, John Jenkins.

1775. Captain Zebulon Butler, Joseph Sluman, Major Ezekial Pierce.

1776. John Jenkins, Captain Solomon Strong, Colonel Zebulon Butler, Colonel Nathan Denison.

1777. John Jenkins, Isaac Tripp.

1778. Nathan Denison, Anderson Dana, Lieutenant Asahel Buck.

1779. Nathan Denison, Deacon John Hurlbut.

1780. John Hurlbut, Jonathan Fitch, Nathan Denison.

1781. John Hurlbut, Jonathan Fitch, Obadiah Gore, Captain John Franklin.

1782. Obadiah Gore, Jonathan Fitch.

From 1772 to 1775 the following persons were justices of the peace of Litchfield county: John Smith, Thomas Moffitt, Isaac Baldwin, John Jenkins, Zebulon Butler, Nathan Denison, Silas Parks, Bushnall Bostick, Joseph Sluman, Increase Moseley, John Sherman, Uriah Chapman. Joseph Sluman and John Sherman were judges of probate, as was Nathan Denison, of Westmoreland county.

In 1776 Jonathan Fitch was commissioned sheriff of Westmoreland county. The same year John Jenkins was appointed judge of the county court in and for the county of Westmoreland. On June 1, 1778, Governor Jonathan Trumbull appointed the following named persons justices of the peace for the county of Westmoreland: Nathan Denison, Christopher Avery, Obadiah Gore, Zera Beach, Zebulon Butler, William McKarrican, Asaph Whittlesey, Uriah Chapman, Anderson Dana, Ebenezer Marcy, Stephen Harding, John Franklin, 2d, Joseph Hambleton, and William Judd. Of the foregoing, Nathan Denison, Christopher Avery, Obadiah Gore and Zera Beach were appointed to assist the judges of Westmoreland. Other justices of the peace were appointed as follows: Caleb Bates, Zebulon Marcy, John Hurlbut, Nathaniel Landon, Abel Pierce, Hugh Fordsman, John Franklin, John Vincent, John Jenkins. In 1781 Nathan Denison was judge of Westmoreland county. The above contains the names of the officers of Litchfield and Westmoreland counties. There were probably others, but we are unable to ascertain who they were. The only lawyers in Westmoreland were Anderson Dana and — Bullock. As they were both killed in the battle and massacre of Wyoming, Lieutenant John Jenkins was appointed by the court state's at-

torney. The fourth section of the act incorporating Luzerne county provided: "That Courts of Common Pleas and General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden in and for the said county of Luzerne shall be opened and held on the Tuesday succeeding the Tuesday on which the court of Northumberland is held in each and every term hereafter; and that the Court of Quarter Sessions shall sit three days at each sessions and no longer, and shall be held at the house of Zebulon Butler, in the town of *Wilkesburg*, in the said county of Luzerne, until a court house shall be built, as hereafter directed, in the said county, which said courts shall then be holden and kept at the said court house on the days and times before mentioned." Section ninth of said act provided "That Zebulon Butler, Nathaniel Landen, Jonah Rogers, John Philips and Simon Spawlding are hereby appointed trustees for the said county of Luzerne, and they, or any three of them, shall take assurances of and for a piece of land situated in some convenient place in or near *Wilkesburg*, within the said county of Luzerne, for the seat of a court house and of a county gaol or prison for the said county, in the name of the commonwealth, in trust and for the use and benefit of the said county of Luzerne, and thereupon to erect a court house and prison sufficient to accommodate the public service of the said county. On May 27, 1787, William Hooker Smith, Benjamin Carpenter and James Nesbitt, Esqs., justices of the county Court of Common Pleas for Luzerne county, convened at the dwelling house of Zebulon Butler, in Wilkes-Barre (corner of River and Northampton streets, on the site of the residence of Hon. Stanley Woodward), in the said county, when and where the following proceedings were had:

Proclamation having been made by the sheriff of said county commanding all persons to keep silence, there were read:

I. The commissions issued by the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania to the said William Hooker Smith, Benjamin Carpenter and James Nesbit, and also to Timothy Pickering, Obadiah Gore, Nathan Kingsley and Matthias Hollenback, constituting them justices of the county Court of Common Pleas for the said county.

II. The *dedimus potestatum* to Timothy Pickering and Na-

than Denison, Esqs., issued by the supreme executive council, empowering them to administer the oaths to persons who were or should be commissioned in said county.

III. Then William Hooker Smith, Benjamin Carpenter and James Nesbit, Esqs., took the oaths of allegiance and of office, and justices of the peace and of the county Court of Common Pleas for said county (as required by the constitution of Pennsylvania), before Timothy Pickering, Esq., impowered as aforesaid to administer them.

IV. The Court of Common Pleas was then opened and Joseph Sprague appointed crier.

V. Then were read the other commissions granted to Timothy Pickering, Esq., by the supreme executive council, constituting him prothonotary of said Court of Common Pleas, clerk of the peace, clerk of the Orphans' Court, register for the probate of wills and granting letters of administration, and recorder of deeds for said county.

VI. The court, upon application to them made, admitted and appointed Ebenezer Bowman, Putnam Catlin, Rosewell Welles and William Nichols (the latter being a non-resident) to be attorneys of the same court, who were accordingly sworn.

VII. Then appeared Lord Butler, Esq., sheriff of the same county, and petitioned the court to take some order relative to the erection of a jail within the said county, whereupon it is ordered that he immediately apply to the trustees for that purpose appointed, and request them to execute the powers granted them by the law of the state so far as respects the erection of a county jail.

The next regular term of court was held September 5, 1787, and was presided over by Justices Obadiah Gore, Matthias Hollenback, William Hooker Smith, Benjamin Carpenter, James Nesbit and Nathan Kingsley. Courts were continued to be held by the justices until the changes wrought by the constitution of 1790 and subsequent legislation.

west of the Susquehanna and north of the Towanda creek. When the bill was read Colonel Franklin arose in his seat and remarked, "he wished to inform the gentlemen that he lived east of the river." The boundaries were accordingly changed, so as to include him in the dismembered portion. In 1805, however, much to the chagrin of his enemies, he was elected by the people of Lycoming, and appeared in triumph at Lancaster, and took his seat. Subsequently, a portion of the dismembered portion was recovered to Luzerne county. Hon. William Ellwell, of Bloomsburg, is a nephew of William Prentice, his mother being Nancy Prentice, who was the wife of Daniel Elwell, the father of the judge.

GEORGE GRIFFIN.

George Griffin was admitted to the bar of Luzerne county, Pa., in 1800. He was a descendant of Jasper Griffin, who was born in Wales in the earlier half of the seventeenth century. He came to America before 1670. The first notice of him is in that year, in Essex county, Mass. In 1674 he was at Marblehead, Mass. In 1675 he and his wife Hannah settled at Southold, Long Island. She was born at Manchester, New England, and died at Southold April 20, 1699, aged forty-six years, eight months, and "was the mother of fourteen children." Mr. Griffin was commissioned major of militia, and had charge of two guns, which were mounted near his house, and fired on public days. He died at Southold April 17, 1738, aged eighty years. Jasper Griffin, son of Jasper Griffin, and eldest of his fourteen children, was born at Southold in 1675. After his father's death he removed to Lyme, Conn., where he had married, April 29, 1696, Ruth Peck, born August 19, 1676, daughter of Joseph Peck, of New Haven, Conn., and Sarah, his wife. Joseph Peck was the third son of William Peck, one of the original proprietors of New Haven, and was the progenitor of all the Pecks in New England. Mr. and Mrs. Griffin had five children. He was over ninety years of age

at the time of his death. Lemuel Griffin, second son of Jasper Griffin, was born at Lyme in 1704. He married Phœbe Comstock. She "was of literary and artistic tastes." They had two sons—George Griffin, eldest son of Lemuel Griffin, was born at East Haddam, Conn., July 10, 1734. He married, March 9, 1762, Eve Dorr, born March 4, 1733, daughter of Edmund Dorr and Mary Griswold. Edmund Dorr was born at Roxbury, Mass., October 16, 1692; married, September 4, 1719, Mary Griswold, daughter of Matthew Griswold and Phœbe Hyde, daughter of Samuel and Jane (Lee) Hyde, of Norwich, Conn. Edmund Dorr was sixth son of Edward and Elizabeth (Hawley) Dorr. Edward Dorr, born in the west of England, 1648, is supposed to be the progenitor of all the Dorr's of New England. Samuel Hyde was the eldest son of William Hyde; both were of the thirty-five original proprietors of Norwich. Matthew Griswold was the eldest son of Matthew Griswold and Anna Wolcott, of Lyme. Matthew, the first, was an assistant of the colony, and a man of mark in the community. Mary (Griswold) Dorr was the aunt of Governor Matthew Griswold. "George Griffin was a man of strong mental ability, of rare judgment and decided character. He endeavored to develop the mental powers of his children."—*Sprague's Memoirs of Rev. E. D. Griffin*. Eve (Dorr) Griffin died April 3, 1804. George Griffin died August 6, 1804. They had three sons and five daughters. The daughters married into the families of Jewett, Beckwith, Lord, Welles and Austin, well known names in Connecticut. The eldest son, Colonel Josiah Griffin, born June 7, 1765, was also judge of the county court, and for several years a legislator of his native state. He "was a man of commanding presence, dignified mien and strong intellect, of rare judgment and taste for mental culture, a man of prominence in the community. It is said of him that he was scarcely less gifted than his more distinguished brothers." His descendants live at East Haddam. The second son, Rev. Dr. Edward Dorr Griffin, born January 6, 1770, graduated at Yale College in 1790. He married, May 17, 1796, Frances Huntington, niece and adopted daughter of Governor Samuel Huntington, of Norwich, and sister of Governor Samuel Huntington, of Ohio. Dr. Griffin was one of the most eloquent

and effective preachers of the day, was professor of pulpit eloquence at Andover, pastor of the Old South church, Boston, and for fifteen years president of Williams College. Dr. Griffin died November 8, 1837. He had no sons, but two daughters—Frances Louisa, a poetess, married Dr. Lyndon A. Smith, of Newark, N. J., and left descendants. Ellen married the Rev. Dr. Crawford, and also left descendants. The third son, and youngest child of George Griffin and Eve (Dorr) Griffin, was George Griffin, born at East Haddam, Conn., January 14, 1778. He graduated from Yale College in 1797, studied law with Noah B. Benedict, at Woodbury, Conn., for six months, and then entered Judge Reeve's law school at Litchfield, Conn., where he was admitted to the bar in December, 1799. He removed to this city in the summer of 1800, and practiced here until 1806. He married, July 3, 1801, Lydia, daughter of Colonel Zebulon Butler. (See page 326). The immediate cause of Mr. Griffin's leaving Wilkes-Barre was the perpetration of a practical joke upon him by electing him high constable at the first election under the borough charter of Wilkes-Barre. He removed from here to the city of New York, where he became a very eminent lawyer. It is related of him, that after he was settled in that city he was engaged for the plaintiff in the trial of a slander suit growing out of an altercation over a game of cards. Not very much had been said by the defendant, but Mr. Griffin opened his argument to the jury with the proverb, "the constant falling of the water drop will wear away the hardest stone," and from this he proceeded to argue that, though the words spoken did not at first blush seem injurious, yet the frequent repetition of what the defendant was responsible for setting in motion, was calculated to undermine the fairest reputation in any community. The verdict was for \$5000, which the plaintiff gave Mr. Griffin as his fee, and from that time forward his reputation was made. The trial of Goodwin, for killing James Staughton, was one of the occasions in which Mr. Griffin's forensic eloquence shone forth with peculiar splendor. The case was tried at New York in 1820. It was one of all absorbing interest in the city, occupying an entire week. Mr. Griffin's address to the jury was, without doubt, one of the great legal speeches which have rendered the New

York city bar so distinguished before the nation. He closed his speech in the following language: "The siren voice of pity has been sounded in your ears in behalf of the prisoner's youth, and you have been invoked, as you value your own salvation, to temper justice with mercy. Mercy is indeed a heavenly attribute—it is the very attribute of the Godhead to which erring mortals will cling in that day of retribution, when we must all appear before the judgment seat, not as judges, or jurors, or counsel, but to await our final sentence. Nor is this favorite of the skies a stranger to our jurisprudence. Our constitution has provided a place for it to dwell, even the mercy seat of the executive. But jurors may not, must not tamper with it; an oath enjoins them to forbear. It is chiefly because the law knows that jurors have compassionate and erring hearts, that it fortifies them by an oath compelling them to lay their hands upon the word of life and to call upon God to help them as they decide according to the law and evidence. Awful alternative, cleaving unto or renouncing the *help of God*. And yet, gentlemen, this oath, with all its sanctions, rests upon your souls."

He was in full practice in New York for fifty-two years. He received the degree of LL. D. from Columbia College in 1837. He was "a profound scholar in every department of literature and science, but he was above all things a lawyer." He died at his residence, 15 West Twentieth street, New York, May 6, 1860. His wife died May 1, 1864. They are buried in the "Marble cemetery," between First and Second streets and First and Second avenues, New York. He died of a softening of the brain, ending in paralysis, and superinduced, thought the celebrated Dr. Delafield, by a complete cessation from all mental labor. He stopped the machine too quickly. Just before retiring from active practice he published two religious works—"The Gospel Its Own Advocate," (New York; Harpers, 1850), and "The Sufferings of Christ," (New York, Harpers, 1852). He was seventy-four years old when the former book issued from the press. All the courts of New York city and the Supreme Court adjourned out of respect to his memory, and he was eulogized by famous lawyers. Judge Hoffman, of the Supreme Court, said: "He was, both in professional and private life, a gentleman of the highest and purest

character." Justice Woodruff, of the same court, made similar remarks. In seconding the motion for an adjournment of the Supreme Court, Mr. David Dudley Field termed him "the Nestor of our bar; eloquent, learned and painstaking." Others, in newspaper editorials and sketches, said: "Removing to New York in 1806, he rose at once to a distinguished position in the profession, and divided forensic honors with such men as Colden, Emmett, Ogden, Hoffman and Wells. Possessed of a well-stored and highly-cultivated mind, great powers of analysis, untiring energy of purpose and industry, a gift of eloquence excelled by few, a tall, commanding figure and polished manner—he won the respect of opponents and the admiration of friends. In his successful career he acquired a handsome competency, and always dispensed his charities with a liberal hand. Few men have ever succeeded in using more conscientiously the gifts of intellect." (New York *Herald*, May 7, 1860.) James W. Gerard, who studied in his office, wrote the obituary which appeared in the *Journal of Commerce*; Henry Alexander that in the *Post*. Some of his speeches have been published in books, from which school boys get speeches. The "National Orator" contains his celebrated speech for the plaintiff in the slander case of Livingston vs. Cheetham. He wrote (but by the law of courts martial the defendant himself spoke it) the defense of Captain (afterwards Commodore) A. S. Mackenzie, tried at the Brooklyn navy yard in 1843 for the hanging of Midshipman Spencer, and others, for the celebrated mutiny on board the United States brig "Somers." George Griffin was six feet two and a half inches in height—almost as tall as either of his two brothers, each of whom exceeded six feet three inches, and well proportioned. His head was of rare intellectual beauty. George and Lydia (Butler) Griffin had children, viz:

1. Francis, born November 26, 1802, at Wilkes-Barre.
2. Edmund Dorr, born September 10, 1804, at Wilkes-Barre.
3. Ellen, born February 15, 1807; died December 9, 1823, at New York, unmarried.
4. Caroline Ann, born May 7, 1809; died April 23, 1810, at New York, unmarried.
5. George, born February 25, 1811, at New York.
6. Charles Alexander, born November 8, 1814, at New York.

7. Caroline Lydia, born March 1, 1820; died May 10, 1861, at New York, unmarried.

8. Ellen Ann, born February 6, 1826; died November 30, 1831, at New York.

I. Francis Griffin graduated at Yale College 1820, studied law with his father and was admitted to practice at New York in 1823. He married, November 29, 1829, Mary I. Sands, born April 17, 1804, daughter of Joseph and Theresa Sands, of Sand's Point, N. Y. He became a prominent and very popular lawyer. At his death eulogies were pronounced by William Kent, F. B. Cutting, John Van Buren, J. W. Gerard, J. J. Roosevelt, and others. He was "of honorable standing, unsullied integrity, and distinguished attainments, endeared to us by his manly deportment, generous nature and kindly sympathies." He died at New York January 12, 1852. Mary (Sands) Griffin died at Dresden, Saxony, March 9, 1888. She had printed, for private distribution, several volumes of novels and tales, at Dresden. She endowed liberally an orphan asylum in that city. They had children:

1. Theresa; born at New York July 27, 1832; married, June 3, 1850, Egbert L. Vielé, born at Waterford, N. Y., June 17, 1825, and educated at West Point. He was brigadier general of United States volunteers during the civil war, 1861-5. They have several children. She lives at Paris. Her son Francis, educated there, is a rising member of the Parisian bar. Another son, Herman, is a civil engineer in New York city. Mrs. Vielé published "Following the Drum" in 1858. It is a sketch of her garrison life in Texas.

2. Edmund Dorr, born in New York May 27, 1833; educated at Bonn and Heidelberg, Germany; became a lawyer in New York; married, April 3, 1853, Lillie Hicks, of Flushing, L. I. He died April 22, 1864, at New Rochelle, N. Y. They have children living in New York, one son a lawyer and one a physician. Edmund Dorr left poems of merit in manuscript.

3. Emily Seaton, born at New York October 2, 1836; married, February 27, 1857, at Dresden, Saxony, Karl Emil von Lengwicke, an officer of the Saxon army. He distinguished himself in the Prusso-Austrian and Franco-Prussian wars. They had several children; all died in childhood.

4. Charles Ferdinand, born at New York April 25, 1838; educated at Bonn and Carlsruhe, Germany; became a civil engineer in New York city. His health failing, he went again to Europe, and died, unmarried, October 26, 1864, at Vienna, Austria, where he is buried.

II. Edmund Dorr Griffin graduated with the highest honors of his class, at Columbia College in 1821, aged seventeen; graduated at the Theological Seminary of New York in 1825; became an Episcopal clergyman; travelled extensively in Europe; was a poet, and at the time of his early death, at New York, September 1, 1830, was professor of belles lettres at Columbia College. He was a very brilliant man, and was called the handsomest man in New York. His head resembled that of Byron in intellectual beauty, but he was six feet in height and exceedingly well made. His literary "Remains" were published by his brother Francis (two volumes, 8vo, New York, Carvill, 1831).

V. George Griffin graduated at Williams College 1834; entered no profession, and lived at Kaatskill, N. Y.; married, first, April 2, 1834, Anne Augusta, daughter of James Neilson and Malvina (Forman) Neilson, of New Brunswick, N. J. She died at Kaatskill March 20, 1841. He then married, May 20, 1845, Mary Augusta, daughter of Judge Apollos Cooke, of Kaatskill. She died there August 19, 1848. He then married, October 14, 1851, Elizabeth Frances, daughter of Abraham Benson, of Fairfield, Conn. He died at Kaatskill in 1880. She is living (1889) at Elizabeth, N. J. He had children by all three wives. The sons now living are lawyers, physicians and merchants in New York city.

VI. Charles Alexander Griffin graduated at Williams College in 1833, and at the Yale Law School in 1835; married, October 26, 1836, Pastora Jacoba DeForest, third daughter of David Curtis DeForest and Julia (Wooster) DeForest, of New Haven, Conn. Pastora J. (DeForest) Griffin was born December 25, 1815, at Buenos Ayres, South America. Julia Wooster was born at Huntington, Conn., and was of the same family as Admiral Wooster and General Wooster. David C. DeForest was a descendant of an ancient French Walloon family of Hainault. Early in the seventeenth century Jesse DeForest, of Leyden, had been

the originator of a scheme of colonization in America. He died —. Henry and Isaac DeForest, his sons, and Dr. Jaen La Montague, his son-in-law, were the leaders of the first Walloon colony at New Amsterdam, in 1636. Henry and Isaac DeForest were founders of Harlem, now part of New York city. Isaac DeForest married, at New Amsterdam, 1641, Sarah, daughter of Phillippe de Trieux (Truax) and Susanne de Cheney. David C. DeForest, fifth in descent from Isaac, was born 1774. In early life he went to Buenos Ayres, South America; became a prominent and successful merchant; returned to New Haven and built what was then the finest house there; was consul-general of Buenos Ayres in this country; established the "DeForest fund" and the prize known as the "DeForest medal" at Yale College; died February 22, 1822.

Charles Alexander Griffin lived in New York and at New Brighton, N. Y., and practiced law in New York city. He cared more for literature than for law, and though he published very little, left a mass of manuscript, consisting of poems, and the results of historical research. Charles Alexander Griffin died at New Brighton, N. Y., October 6, 1859. Pastora J. (DeForest) Griffin is living (1889) at New Haven, Conn. They had children:

1. George Butler Griffin, born at New York September 8, 1840.
2. Ellen Anne Griffin, born at New York September 19, 1842, living (1889), unmarried.
3. Caroline Lydia Griffin, her twin sister, died December 7, 1844.
4. Charles DeForest Griffin, born at New York September 17, 1844; died at Clifton Springs, N. Y., July 8, 1863, unmarried.

All these were born at 74 Leonard street, New York city.

1. George Butler Griffin graduated at Columbia College 1857; became a civil engineer; in 1857-8 went in the United States expedition for a ship-canal survey at the south end of the Isthmus of Darien, under the late Captain T. A. M. Craven, U. S. N. In 1858-59 was assistant engineer on the Tehuantepec railway surveys. After his father's death he studied law at Yale Law School and the University of Albany; was admitted at May (13th) term of the Supreme Court of New York, at Albany, 1861; married, No-

ember 26, 1861, Sara (born March 11, 1841) daughter of Judge James Edwards and Susan (Tabor) Edwards, of Albany; practiced at Davenport, Iowa; returned to Albany. Had two children—Llewellyn Edwards Griffin, born at Davenport, September 5, 1862, and Edmund Dorr Griffin, born at Albany, in 1864. Her health failing, he removed to St. Paul, Minn. She died there March 19, 1866, and the youngest child soon afterwards. Llewellyn E. had died in Albany in 1864. He remained in Minnesota a year, hunting and fishing; had not practiced law since leaving Davenport. In 1865-6 became chief of field-work of the United States survey of the Illinois river for a ship canal. In 1867 he went to the republic of Colombia, South America; became chief of engineers (lieutenant colonel) in their service; resigned, and in 1869 became chief engineer of Buenaventura and Cali railroad, and soon after chief engineer of state of Antioquia; resigned in 1874 and made a visit to the United States; returned to Colombia and became a planter at Palmira, in the Cauca valley; took part in a revolution in 1876, and was exiled and his property seized; went to San Francisco January 27, 1877, and became an assistant to Mr. H. H. Bancroft in the preparation of historical works for the press. In 1880 he visited Europe. In the autumn of that year he accompanied the late Mr. J. B. Eads to Mexico as his chief of staff, and aided in obtaining the concession for the Tehuantepec ship-railway. In 1881 he located the Atlantic and Pacific railway across the Mojave desert, in California. In 1882 he was admitted to the bar of California at Los Angeles, where he now resides. He gives his exclusive attention to land titles. October 26, 1870, he married, at Buga, United States of Colombia (*by proxy*), Eva Guadalupe, born at Palmira, in that republic, December 12, 1850, third daughter of Manuel Maria Garcia de la Plaza, doctor of civil law, and Maria Engracia Gil de Tejada, his wife. His children are:

1. Eva Rosa, born at Medellin, state of Antioquia, United States of Colombia, June 19, 1872.
2. Pastora Engracia, born at same place, May 29, 1874.
3. Helena Maria, born at Palmira, state of Cauca, United States of Colombia, May 19, 1876.
4. Georgina Lydia, born at San Francisco, California, April 23, 1878.

5. Francisca Julia, born at San Francisco, California, April 30, 1880; died at Los Angeles, Cal., November 26, 1881.
6. Jasper, born at Los Angeles, Cal., June 26, 1883.
7. Clementina Ruth, born at Los Angeles, Cal., September 7, 1886.
8. Carolina Alma DeForest, born at Los Angeles, Cal., February 25, 1889.

THOMAS DYER.

Thomas Dyer, who was admitted to the bar of Luzerne county, Pa., in 1802, was a descendant of Thomas Dyer, a native of Weymouth, Massachusetts, who settled in Windham, Conn., about 1715. He married Lydia, a daughter of John Backus, gathered a good estate, was a deputy to the general assembly in several sessions, and major of a Windham county regiment. His only son, Eliphalet Dyer, grandfather of the subject of our sketch, born in Windham, September 14, 1721, was sent to Yale College and graduated in 1740, studied law and began practice in his native town. On May 9, 1745, he married Huldah Bowen, a daughter of Colonel Jabez Bowen, of Providence, R. I. He was chosen deputy to the general assembly in 1747, and again in 1752, but his real entry to public life was through his connection with the project of establishing a Connecticut colony in the valley of the Susquehanna. Mr. Dyer was an active and influential promoter of this enterprise; an original member of the Susquehanna Company, formed in 1753, one of the committee to purchase the Indian title to the land selected for the proposed colony at Wyoming, and one of the company's agents to petition the general assembly in 1755 for permission to settle on these lands, which were then believed to be within the chartered limits of Connecticut. The operations of the Susquehanna Company were interrupted by the war with France. In 1755 Mr. Dyer was appointed lieutenant colonel of one of the regiments sent by Connecticut to assist in the reduction of Crown Point, and in 1758 he was made colonel of a regiment in