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Bergen R. Carman. Many of the most influential citizens of Long Island are members of families early established here and long identified with the history of this section. Such is the case with the subject of this sketch, whose forefathers for successive generations were honorably and intimately associated with the development and prosperity of the island. From them he inherited the qualities of energy, thrift and perseverance that characterized his entire business career. Now retired from active labors, he still, however, retains his interest in public events and gives his sympathetic cooperation to measures projected for the benefit of the people. His home is in Hempstead, where he is surrounded by the friendship of a large circle of acquaintances and by the comforts which enhance the pleasures of life.

A native of Long Island, Mr. Carman was born at Freeport, August 14, 1846. His father, Samuel S., was born in the same place as himself and there he spent his active life, engaged in business pursuits. He was a prominent citizen of the place and his death in 1891 was regarded as a public loss. The wife and mother was Eliza (Raynor) Carman, who was born in Freeport, and still makes that village her home. There were only three children in the family, a son and two daughters. The former, who forms the subject of this notice, was given good educational advantages in the public schools and at Union Hall Academy, Jamaica, acquiring a broad fund of information through diligent use of his opportunities.

The ability of Mr. Carman as a financier is abundantly proved by his long and successful connection with the old Atlantic Bank in Brooklyn. Finally, having accumulated an ample fortune, he closed out his business interests and has since given his attention to the oversight of his personal investments. While he has never displayed any partisan spirit, yet he is firm in his allegiance to the Republican party, and always votes that ticket. At one time he held the position of village trustee and is now a member of the Board of Education. He aided in the organization of the Building and Loan Association of Hempstead and is serving as one of its directors. In St. George's Church, of which he is an active member, he holds the office of treasurer.

The marriage of Mr. Carman took place September 19, 1870, and united him with Miss Jeannette Davis, daughter of B. W. and L. A. (Philip) Davis, of Brooklyn. They are the parents of one son, Charles W., a graduate of St. Paul's, at Garden City. He also spent two years at Cornell University and is now at home. Mr. Carman and his family occupy a commodious residence on Fulton Street, surrounded by beautiful and well-kept grounds, and containing within evidences of the refined tastes and culture of the inmates.
Samuel S. Carman. Among those who fought the battle of life bravely and has been called from the strife and turmoil of this life is Samuel S. Carman, who was born near Freeport, L. I., September 25, 1821, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Smith) Carman, the former of whom was an energetic and successful tiller of the soil during the greater part of his career, or until his removal to Brooklyn, N.Y. He afterwards returned to Freeport, where he died. At the time of the removal of the family to Brooklyn, Samuel S. Carman was but a lad, and therefore nearly all the educational advantages which he received were acquired in that city. His father had engaged in the mercantile business upon locating there, and in this establishment young Samuel began clerking when quite young. At the age of eighteen years he accompanied his parents to Freeport, and as his father again returned to farming, Samuel assisted him for a number of years. He then decided to turn his attention to other pursuits and soon after opened a lumber yard here, to the success of which he devoted his time, thought and energy, until his career was closed by death in the spring of 1891. As a business man he showed himself to be prudent, far seeing and practical, and all his operations were conducted on the soundest business principles, the result being that an extended and lucrative patronage was built up, and a reputation for honesty and integrity acquired which was by no means local. A useful career closed with his death, and his loss was deeply felt by the community, as well as by his own immediate family.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Eliza Raynor was celebrated in 1842, she being a daughter of Daniel and Mary Ann (Bedell) Raynor, natives and life-long residents of Long Island. Daniel Raynor was a prominent business man and a progressive and useful citizen, who commanded universal respect. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Carman resulted in the birth of three children, Bergen R., Mary Elizabeth, wife of Dr. Denton, of Freeport, and Edna V., wife of George V. Bushnell, of Richmond Hill. Mrs. Carman lives in her comfortable and pretty home in Freeport, in the enjoyment of an ample income and fair health. She is not a member of any church, but is very charitably inclined, is sympathetic and kind-hearted and is an attendant of the First Presbyterian Church. Her friends are many and true, and unbounded respect is bestowed upon her.

William Raynor, who, though passed to his final reward, still lives in the gracious influence which emanated from him while on earth. We find no one more worthy of mention or whose long life of usefulness is more worthy to be chronicled than this gentleman, whose honesty and integrity were proverbial in the community. He was born in Freeport, April 13, 1826, and for many years was one of the foremost business men in that thriving village. His parents, Daniel and Mary Ann (Bedell) Raynor, spent their entire lives on the island, where they were well respected. Our subject received only the advantages of the common schools during his youth, but, being possessed of
an active brain and unlimited perseverance he became a well informed man of his section.

Reared near Hempstead Bay, L. I., Mr. Raynor worked at any honest employment he could find there. When about twenty years old he went to the city of Brooklyn and accepted a clerkship in the grocery establishment of Valentine & Bergen, and remained there a number of years. Later he came to Freeport, where he was engaged in the lumber business with Mr. Carman for about fifteen years, when he withdrew, afterwards living in retirement for several years. He then embarked in the shoe business and was following this most successfully at the time of his death, in 1886.

In the year 1854 Mr. Raynor married Miss Catherine G. Smith, daughter of Willet and Phoebe Smith, natives of the island. Mr. Smith was prominently identified with the agricultural pursuits of his section and was also a popular business man, having followed merchandising many years of his life. He and Mrs. Smith passed their entire lives on the island. Mrs. Raynor is the only surviving member of the family, which consisted of one son and four daughters. She has no children and resides in her comfortable home in Freeport, highly esteemed by the many who are favored by her acquaintance.

**George M. Randall.** The calling of the farmer is as old as the world, and the majority of the men who have followed it have led upright and blameless lives, and the career of George M. Randall is no exception to this rule. He was born in the town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, in 1848, his parents being Jehial and Maryetta (Morehouse) Randall, who were respectively citizens of Suffolk County and Fairfield, Conn. George M. was reared on his father’s farm and while growing up became familiar with hard work, but his vigorous outdoor life strengthened and improved a constitution sound from his birth. During this time he was given such advantages for acquiring an education as the schools of his day afforded, and although they were of an inferior kind he acquired a practical education.

It was but natural, perhaps, that when starting out to fight life’s battle for himself that he should engage in that occupation to which he had been reared and for which he had a liking. He continued to till the soil on the old home farm for forty-two years, but in 1890 came to Freeport and here he has been superintendent of Randall & Miller’s business ever since, caring for their lands, buildings and general business interests. Mr. Randall is a director in the Freeport bank, and is also a stockholder in the land company of this village. All in all, Mr. Randall is a broad-gauged man of highly cultivated tastes and of superior intelligence and public spirit. He has long been connected with the worthy order of Odd Fellows, and in his political views has always
been Democratic. During his long residence in Suffolk County he held several official positions.

The 25th of December, 1869, witnessed the celebration of Mr. Randall’s marriage with Miss Rowena Burnett, daughter of Stephen and Sophia (Bishop) Burnett, both natives of Southampton, Suffolk County. Three children were given to this union and were named as follows: Evelyn, George Howard and Florence, all of whom are intelligent and accomplished, worthy scions of a worthy father and mother. Mr. and Mrs. Randall are communicants of the Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Randall is one of the trustees. The Randall home is well known for the hospitality which is extended to all and the family is considered an acquisition to the social circles of the village of Freeport.

Carman Smith. While it is of rare occurrence for the man who is by natural bent and training a farmer to adopt any other calling, when he does so he usually rises to success in it, because his whole life has been based upon the principle of integrity, with the firm conviction that in all the avenues of trade honesty should be the ruling spur. This quality has marked the career of Carman Smith, who is one of the old and prominent citizens of Freeport. He was born at Merrick, L. I., in 1819, to Joseph and Harriet (Raynor) Smith, who were also born on Long Island and there spent their lives in a useful and commendable manner. The father was identified with farming interests, but gave considerable attention to merchandising also and was the owner of some fisheries. Being a public-spirited citizen, he held a number of town offices and was at one time captain of a company of state militia. His earthly career closed in 1870, and his widow’s death occurred in 1887.

Carman Smith obtained only the advantages of the district schools in his youth, and they were very inferior in those days. While growing up he assisted his father in the duties of the farm and store and under his wise and kindly guidance he learned lessons of energy, push and honesty which were the stepping stones to his success of later years. He remained with and aided his father until he was thirty years of age, when he embarked in the mercantile business on his own account, and this occupation received his attention in the village of Merrick for more than thirty years. During this time he also carried on farming to some extent. From about 1850 to 1877 he held the responsible position of postmaster of Merrick. In 1880 he removed to Freeport and in this pleasant village has lived in retirement ever since, in the enjoyment of the fruits of his early industry and in the society of his many friends, whom his honorable and upright career in the business arena and his genial and kindly disposition have gathered about him.

Mr. Smith has always been a very progressive citizen and his business undertakings always prospered. In commercial circles he holds an honorable position and in the
social life of the village in which he lives he is also highly regarded. In 1853 he was
united in marriage with Miss Ruthella Smith, daughter of James Smith, and their
marriage resulted in the birth of four children: Emily, wife of Charles L. Wallace, a
successful attorney-at-law and the able editor of the "South Shore Observer"; Samuel
R., president of the Rockaway Bank at Far Rockaway; Joseph Nelson, who died at the
age of seventeen years, and one who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are
prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which they have been
identified for more than half a century. Although he has always taken a deep interest in
political matters, he has never aspired to political preferment, much preferring to devote
his time and energies to the successful conduct of his business affairs, and in this he
showed his wisdom.

Raynor R. Smith is justly deserving of being recognized as one of the progressive and
successful tillers of the soil of Queens County, for in this occupation he has attained a
degree of success that can only be accounted for in the fact that he has devoted the
greater portion of his life to it. Nor is this all, for he has for many years been a dealer in
oysters also and has found this enterprise to be profitable. Mr. Smith was born in the
village of Freeport in 1842, his parents being William R. and Mary (Frost) Smith, the
former of whom was a native of Freeport, and during his lifetime devoted his time and
attention to farming on the bay, from which occupation he secured a comfortable
competency. After a useful but unpretentious life his earthly career closed in
September, 1893. His widow is now seventy-eight years of age and is in the enjoyment
of fair health for one of her years.

Raynor R. Smith was given such educational advantages as the schools of his
youthful days afforded, but these were by no means the best, and were limited to about
three months during the year. However, by dint of application, he acquired a practical
education, sufficient to transact the ordinary duties of life, and having thoroughly learned
the details of farming under his father while growing up, at the age of twenty-three years
he left the shelter of the parental roof and began farming on his own responsibility, at
the same time engaging in the oyster business, both of which occupations he has
successfully carried on ever since. Mr. Smith has a commodious and comfortable
residence in Freeport and is with justice regarded one of the representative citizens of
the place.

In 1859 our subject married Miss Annie M. Story, a daughter of Jacob and Huldah
(Terry) Story, natives and worthy citizens of Long Island. Eleven children were born to
Mr. and Mrs. Smith, eight of whom are living at the present time and are as follows:
Angelica, wife of William Plyer, of Hempstead; Raynor R., Jr.; Franklin M.; Elizabeth,
wife of William Dunlop, of Freeport; William Harvey; Clara Bell; Mary and Percy. Mr.
and Mrs. Smith have long been connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, of Freeport, of which Mr. Smith is steward. Socially he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and politically has always supported the men and measures of the Democratic party. He has creditably served his fellow-citizens as town assessor and is at present one of the trustees of the village of Freeport, having held the latter position since the incorporation of the place. He is now treasurer of the Board of Water Commissioners of Freeport, and in everything pertaining to the welfare of this section he has always been interested and has given to it hearty and substantial support.

**Henry P. Libby.** No matter how crowded may be the market in any particular calling, every person who possesses original and practical ideas, with the enterprise to push them to a successful termination, is bound to win success, both as regards reputation and the accumulation of the almighty dollar. Such has been the experience of Henry P. Libby, whose career as a real estate and insurance agent has been one of success almost from the time of his commencement in the business, and this is without doubt due to his thorough knowledge of realty, as well as to the fact that he always lives up to the letter of the contract.

Our subject was born in Rockland, Me., in 1855, a son of Henry G. and Laura W. (Tyron) Libby, who were also natives of the old Pine Tree State. The father was a superintending machinist by occupation. The mother, who is in the enjoyment of good health, resides at Bridgeport, Conn. Henry P. Libby received his education in the Bridgeport public schools, but at the age of fifteen years he left school to accept a position as time-keeper in the Howe Sewing Machine Company's manufactory at Bridgeport. After leaving the employ of this company he attended Rev. Mr. Day's private school for one year, at the end of which time, when only seventeen years old, he began teaching school and continued in this occupation with marked success for one year at Newtown, Conn. He then began working under his father in the Howe Sewing Machine factory, at Bridgeport, and was thus employed for two or three months, when he took a contract from the company to furnish them with spiral springs, the making of which he superintended for about two years. The business then became depressed and the company closed down the works, thus throwing Mr. Libby out of employment, but he soon after came to Freeport, L. I. and was principal of the Freeport schools for about three years, from 1877 to 1880.

In 1880 Mr. Libby engaged in the clothing business, but one year later he accepted a position in the office of the Phenix Insurance Company in New York City, which he filled for a period of seven years, then embarked in his present business. He has prospered in this line and his career has been characterized by much business acumen and unlimited energy, and since starting in business he has met with more than ordinary
success. It was through his efforts that the Freeport Bank was organized in 1892, he being instrumental in obtaining the subscription of stock, and the bank is now firmly founded and among the most prosperous institutions of Freeport. In 1893 Mr. Libby inaugurated the idea of the organization of the Freeport Land Company and obtained the capital stock of $100,000, after which he was made secretary of the company.

Keenly public spirited, Mr. Libby has done much to build up and improve the village of Freeport, and is accounted one of her most substantial citizens. The cause of education has found in him a liberal and active patron and he is a member of the Board of Education. Politically he is a stanch Republican, but has never been a political aspirant, and socially is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1880 Mr. Libby married Miss Mattie Holloway, a native of Columbia, S. C., but who was reared at Freeport, and to them one son has been born, Harry H. Mr. and Mrs. Libby are members of the Presbyterian Church and he is one of the trustees.

Elbert Verity. The name of this gentleman is a very familiar one in the business circles of Long Island, for he has been engaged in various occupations here throughout his life, and in each and every one of them he was always to be relied upon. He is now living in retirement from the active duties of life in Freeport. At Seaford, Queens County, he was born in 1817, a son of Samuel and Abigail (Hoff) Verity, both of whom were born on Long Island, where they spent their lives. The father was a very successful and skillful wheelwright, and at the same time was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was very unpretentious in all his ways and after a quiet but useful life passed away at the extreme old age of ninety-three years. His wife's death occurred about twenty years prior to his own, at which time she was sixty years old.

The early educational advantages of Elbert Verity were very limited indeed, for not only were schools scarce and those few poorly conducted, but his opportunities for attending these were quite limited. However, he obtained a fair knowledge of the three R's, and this was greatly increased in later years by reading in the rough but thoroughly practical school of business life. He became inured of hard work at an early age, and after a time learned carriage-making, at which he worked with his father for about five years, and then alone for a like period. At the end of this time he embarked in the general mercantile business at Seaford and followed this occupation and millwrighting and carpentering until December, 1864, when he gave them all up and went to Brooklyn, where he obtained a situation in a lumber yard. Later the owner of this yard died, and after managing the business for six years Mr. Verity started in the same line for himself. After following this with marked success until 1887, failing health caused him to dispose of his stock, since which time he has lived retired.
In 1886 Mr. Verity took up his residence in Freeport, and he and his worthy wife are spending the twilight of life in comfort and happiness at their beautiful home in this village. Mr. Verity was first married in 1840 to Miss Mary S. Fleet, who was born in Queens County, and was called from this life in 1855. On the 18th of December, 1855, Mr. Verity was again married, his wife being Mrs. Elizabeth A. (Edmondson) Hart, daughter of Alexander Edmondson, a native of Scotland, but who came to the state of New York in early life. Mrs. Verity was born in Scotland, and has borne her present husband three children: Elberta, wife of M. H. Mullenneaux, of Albany, N. Y.; Elbert W., of Freeport; and William E., of Brooklyn. Mrs. Verity has one son by her first husband, Alexander R. Hart, a resident of Brooklyn. Mr. and Mrs. Verity are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and politically he has ever been identified with the Republican party, but is rather conservative in his political views. Although he is seventy-nine years of age he is hale and healthy, and looks many years younger than he really is, which is without doubt the result of temperate and prudent living, as well as due to the fact that he inherited a sound constitution. His wife also enjoys excellent health, and they are a very highly respected old couple.

John J. Randall. Classed among the prominent and highly honored citizens of Freeport, L. I., stands the name of John J. Randall, whose record for honesty and uprightness stands second to none. He was born in Suffolk County in 1845, a son of Jehial W. Randall and Marietta (Morehouse) Randall. The father was also a native of Suffolk County, and spent his entire life there. A public spirited and thorough-going citizen, he gave his hearty support to all worthy enterprises. He held a number of local positions, discharged the duties most efficiently, and was highly respected by all who knew him. His wife, who was, born in Fairfield, Conn., is still living, although she has reached the venerable age of four score and two years.

John J. Randall had the advantages of the district schools during his youth and subsequently attended school for a time at Port Jefferson, L. I. He grew up on the farm of his father and when sixteen years old went to sea, making several trips. Not liking the “life on the ocean wave” he returned home and began learning the carpenter’s trade, and after completing it engaged in business with his brother in Brooklyn. They followed building for ten years and then, on account of failing health, John J. sold his interest in the business and purchased a farm in Suffolk County. After tilling the soil for about four years he returned to Brooklyn and embarked in building and selling, meeting with unusual success. Later he took in as partner W. G. Miller and the firm, which became Randall & Miller, is still doing business in Brooklyn.

In 1885 Mr. Randall came to Freeport, and came and went daily from Brooklyn for eight years. For the past two years he has been quite busy with affairs in Freeport. He
has bought and built some of the handsomest buildings in this section and is a popular and influential business man. He is president of and a large owner in the Freeport Land Company, and he and his partner have about five hundred acres here and much other land besides. Mr. Randall is now completing a very fine residence for himself in Randall Park and this, when completed, will contain all the modern improvements up to date.

Mr. Randall selected his life companion in the person of Miss Sarah J. Davis of Port Jefferson, L. I. She died about ten years after their marriage, leaving one son, Ernest S., who is a graduate of Columbia College and now a successful architect. In 1880 Mr. Randall was again married, his second wife being Miss Mary F. Overton, daughter of Hampton Overton of Suffolk County. They have two children, Lena F. and J.J., Jr. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Mr. Randall was very instrumental in the founding of the church at Freeport. It now has three hundred members and a Sabbath-school of five hundred. In politics Mr. Randall is a stanch supporter of Republican principles and has abiding faith in his party.

Our subject was one of the founders of the Freeport Bank, of which he has been president since its organization. He was instrumental in the building up of the school, of which the citizens of Freeport are so justly proud, and takes a deep interest in every movement of importance. Randall & Miller are now building a canal three-quarters of a mile in length from the mainland to the bay, and this will be of much benefit to the city. Mr. Randall is a very progressive citizen and no one has done more for Freeport, perhaps, in the short time he has been here, than he.

D. Wesley Pine. The name of Pine has long been actively and prominently identified with the up-building of Freeport, L. I., and the erection of many of her largest and most stately edifices. There is no more important industry in a growing city or one in which its exponents are in greater demand, than the builder and contractor. Freeport’s imposing business buildings and fine residences have proved this, while the builder may with truth at once be designated as one of the foremost and useful developers of a vicinity. D. Wesley Pine is one of the most prominent men engaged in this line of business in Freeport. He was born at Greenwich Point, January 5, 1846, and is a son of Raynor and Catherine (Edwards) Pine, both natives of the island, where their entire lives were spent.

The youthful days of Raynor Pine were spent in a paper mill and for some time he was engineer of the same. Later he engaged in farming and was thus occupied at the time of his death, which occurred in 1882. Mrs. Pine died in 1867. Our subject had only the ordinary advantages of the district school during his youth, but under the admirable training of his father learned habits of industry and perseverance on the farm that have
remained with him through life. When nineteen he began learning the carpenter’s trade and five years were spent in this before he embarked in business for himself. In 1877 he formed a co-partnership with Carman Pearsall, of Freeport, and the firm of Pine & Pearsall has continued up to the present time.

This firm is one of the best known in its line in the community and the many buildings erected by Mr. Pine and Mr. Pearsall are fair samples of their handiwork. D.W. Pine was married in 1870 to Miss Laura E. Treadwell, daughter of Timothy Treadwell, who is a descendant of one of the oldest and best respected families of Long Island. Mr. and Mrs. Pine’s only child, Murwin W., closed his eyes in death at the early age of fifteen years. For many years this worthy couple have been active and earnest members of the Presbyterian Church and are leaders in all good work. For twenty-eight years Mr. Pine has been a member of the Odd Fellows’ Order, and in politics he is a Republican, faithfully supporting the platform and measures of that party.

Our subject has never aspired to any political position, preferring to give his entire attention to his business, which has grown to vast proportions under his admirable management. For many years he was foreman of Excelsior Hook and Ladder Company of Freeport, and is also a director of the Freeport Bank and in the Freeport Land Company. The village was incorporated about the year 1892 and a fire department organized with Mr. Pine as chief. He is ever alive to the progress and interests of his village and vicinity and is a most worthy citizen.

Carmen Peasell. Characteristic of the American is the ability to change his line of business and achieve success in what he undertakes. Of the old adage, “a rolling stone gathers no moss,” the reverse may often be said to be true if accompanied by true spirit. Fortunate is he who can--when times are troublous and circumstances hard--keep his eye fixed on the goal and forge ahead to grasp success as a reward for his striving. A gentleman who possesses this business talent to an eminent degree is Carman Peasell, who is engaged in the furniture, undertaking and house-furnishing business in Freeport. Like many of the most successful business men of this place, Mr. Peasell is a native of Long Island, born at Pearsall’s, now Lynbrook, in 1827, and he is the son of William and Betsy (Carman) Peasell.

The parents were natives of Long Island and here spent the most of their lives. During his lifetime the father was a boatman and was thus occupied at the time of his death in 1852. He was a man of most excellent principles and was highly regarded by all who made his acquaintance. His wife was born in 1803 and is still living (1896), in the enjoyment of comparative good health. Their son, Carman Peasell, had very limited educational advantages during his youth, receiving his training in what was known as
the pay school, which was in session about three months of the year. Only the wealthy could educate their children in these.

When thirteen years old young Peasell left the parental roof and came to Raynortown, now Freeport, and made his home with Willet Raynor, who was a farmer and fisherman, remaining with him for three years. After that he went to New York City and served an apprenticeship with a cabinetmaker and later learned ship-joining. For some time afterward he was engaged in making architectural patterns for houses, but in 1861 he was in the navy yard in Brooklyn, where for some time he was engaged in making gun carriages. In 1864 he began the manufacture of extension tables on his own account at Brooklyn, N. Y., but ten years later suffered a heavy loss by fire. Afterward he began manufacturing stereoscopes and graphoscopes and was thus occupied until 1876, when he established a furniture business in Brooklyn. He again suffered considerable loss by fire and in the month of February, 1886, came to Freeport, where he has ever since been engaged in the furniture, undertaking and house-furnishing business. His stock is complete and his business lucrative.

Mr. Peasell was married July 3, 1848, to Miss Harriet A. Earle, a native of New Jersey and daughter of Thomas Earle. Of the seven children born of this union only one survives, George W., who is engaged in business with his father, and who has passed his days thus far in Brooklyn and Freeport. In 1879 George Peasell married Minnie F. Watson, daughter of William Watson, formerly of Brooklyn, but now of Freeport. Three children bless this union: William Carman, Hattie and Mildred. For about fifty years Mr. and Mrs. Peasell have been worthy members of the Methodist Church and take a deep interest in its progress. Mr. Peasell is a Mason and in politics is a stanch Republican, his first vote being cast for Zachery Taylor. He has never aspired to political positions and is a citizen who stands high in church and social circles.

**George T. Van Riper.** Many of the public buildings and private residences in Queens County give evidence of the skill and ability of this gentleman and his brother, F. G., who are the leading builders and contractors in this section. Honorable and upright in whatever they undertake to do, they merit and receive the confidence of those who know them and have built up an excellent reputation in their chosen business.

Our subject was born in New York City September 12, 1857. His father, Isaac Van Riper, was a native of Gravesend, L. I., while the grandfather, also Isaac Van Riper, came from New Jersey. He later settled at Gravesend, where he was engaged as a general merchant. His wife was before her marriage Huldah Stout.

The father passed the first eighteen years of his life on Long Island, after which he went to New York and was apprenticed to a good workman in order that he might learn
the trade of a plasterer. Later he engaged in contracting in this line on his own account, and as the years passed by and he was prospered he branched out and became an expert mason and builder. He located in Long Island City in 1861, being engaged in business here until 1892. That year, on account of ill-health, he made permanent residence at his country home in Freeport, where he is now engaged in business, having for his partners his two youngest sons, E. H. and A. M. Van Riper.

The wife of Isaac Van Riper prior to her marriage was Deborah Talmadge, a native of New Jersey and the daughter of John and Mary (Hegiman) Talmadge. Her father was of English descent and on leaving his native state located in Long Island City. His last years, however, were spent in Brooklyn. Of the ten children born to Isaac Van Riper and his wife seven are now living. Of these the subject of this sketch was the second eldest. His eldest brother, Francis G., is engaged in business with him. Alice is now Mrs. Miners of Freeport, L. I., where her husband is engaged in the practice of medicine. Laura married John Higgs and they make their home in Long Island City. Edwin H. is a resident of Jamaica, L. I. Albert M. lives in Freeport, and Irene is at home.

George T. Van Riper was a resident of this city from 1861, when his father first located here, until 1886. This now large and flourishing city bears but little resemblance to the small village it was when our subject settled here. For fifteen years he carried on his studies, attending school in Sixth Street. He was thus admirably qualified to begin life for himself, and, desirous of learning his father’s trade, he served an apprenticeship of three years under him. Later he took up mason work, and it was four years before he was thoroughly proficient in this trade.

Our subject continued to work for his father until 1889, when he, with his brother, F. G., was taken into partnership with his father and uncle, the firm name being I. & J. Van Riper & Co. This connection lasted until February 15, 1894, when the senior members of the firm retired, leaving our subject and his brother to manage affairs alone, which they have done in a very able and profitable manner. Under the superintendence of F. G. & G. T. Van Riper the Masonic Temple at Greenpoint, L. I. was built, the Freeport Flats at the same place, the private stables of Fleishman & Co. in Brooklyn, the Borden Building in Seventh Street, Long Island City, the Freeport Public School Building, the Fourth Ward Station House, and several structures in Wallabout Market, in Brooklyn. They have also erected some of the finest residences in this section and have succeeded in not only making a good living for themselves and families, but by industry and perseverance have accumulated a competence. The brothers give employment the year round to fifty or eighty men, and are, perhaps, the most reliable and competent firm of contractors on the island.

The subject of this sketch was married in this city to Miss Ida E. Graham, a native of Florida. Her father, Rev. Alexander Graham, who was for many years an active
minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is now living retired from pastoral work in
Long Island City. Mrs. Van Riper departed this life at Freeport June 21, 1895, leaving a
son and daughter, Alexander G. and Estelle G. The family made their home here until
1886, when, on account of the ill-health of Mrs. Van Riper, they went to California,
traveling through the state for nine months. At the end of that time they returned to
Long Island City and in 1890 located in Freeport, where our subject later erected a
beautiful residence.

The firm of Van Riper Brothers built three residences in Jackson Avenue, which they
later sold, and also easily disposed of five which they owned in Ely Street, and the same
number which were located in Huron Street, besides two in Milton Street. In all the
business undertakings they display good executive ability and have been remarkably
successful. In religious affairs our subject is a consistent member of the Methodist
Episcopal Church at Freeport, of which he is steward, chorister and assistant
superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is also an active worker in the Epworth
League and deems it a great pleasure to be able to do what he can toward carrying
forward the work of the church in this locality. In his political affiliations he is a very
strong Republican and is zealous in everything pertaining to the welfare of his party. He
is a man of progressive ideas, and is in favor of giving to the children of this generation
the best possible educational advantages that they may be fitted for the duties of life.

Valentine W. Smith. Although this county has much in the way of natural resources
and commercial transactions to commend it to the public, the chief interest centers upon
the lives of those citizens who have achieved success for themselves and at the same
time benefited the community in which they reside. Prominent among these men is
Valentine W. Smith, who, while one of the youngest business men of Far Rockaway, is
also one of the most judicious and efficient. Since 1893 he has held the responsible
position of cashier of the Far Rockaway Bank, and has by his efforts added to the
reputation which this bank has of being a safe and solid financial institution.

While engaged in business in Far Rockaway Mr. Smith makes his home in Freeport,
where reside his father, J. Gilbert Smith, a retired farmer, and his mother, Mary (Powell)
Smith; also his brother, Charles P. Smith, proprietor of the leading drug store of
Freeport. Valentine W., the older of the two sons, was born at Merrick (Freeport P. O.),
October 6, 1868, and received in boyhood such educational advantages as the common
schools afforded, also was a student in Brooklyn for three years, and finally finished his
education by a course in Bryant & Stratton’s Business College. Being naturally bright
and quick with figures, he gained a thorough knowledge of every department of
commerce and finance, and was fitted for the position to which he was afterward called.
On leaving college Mr. Smith became bookkeeper for the Far Rockaway Bank, then a private institution, and was found to be a valuable, trustworthy employe[e]. His ability led to his promotion to the position of cashier, which he now holds. He is still young and it may safely be predicted that the future years will bring him increasing and deserved honors. It was on the 25th of July, 1888, that he came to Far Rockaway, and the bank was incorporated in January of the following year. In addition to his work in this connection, he is agent for the Westchester Fire Insurance Company of Freeport and Far Rockaway, and does a good line of business for that company.

Fraternally Mr. Smith is identified with Olympia Lodge No. 808, F. & A. M., and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is also a member of Hempstead Bay Yacht Club. He is not an active participant in political affairs other than to vote the Republican ticket, preferring to give his attention to his business. As notary public he has already had quite an extensive experience in drawing up wills and in the settlement of estates. A wide-awake and progressive young man, the best interests of the community receive his support, and he aids in worthy public enterprises. In religious views he is connected with the Presbyterian Church of Freeport, of which he has been treasurer and trustee for a number of years, and is also an active worker in the Sunday-school.

William G. Miller. The business and social career of the subject of this sketch is a striking example of what may be accomplished by the American youth who possesses energy and determination to win in the great battle of life. His success has been honestly deserved and bravely won by upright business methods and great energy and should be an encouragement to all young men who are ambitious to succeed. Mr. Miller was born in Suffolk County, February 2, 1853, a son of James G. and Elizabeth W. (Wasson) Miller. The father was a prominent and successful farmer and fruit grower, and, being a man of unblemished reputation, he was greatly respected in the community in which he lived, was active in all good works and was a zealous and faithful member of the Presbyterian Church. He held a number of minor official positions, but was never very active in that respect. His estimable wife, to whom he was married in New York City in 1848, still survives him. They became the parents of five children, of whom four still survive, William G. being the eldest son.

The early life of our subject was spent in healthful farm work and in attending school during the winter months until he was seventeen years of age, when he determined to seek his fortune in the city of Brooklyn. He first mastered the details of the building business, and when only twenty-one had already become a skillful manufacturer of small cabinet ware, his goods being shipped to all parts of the United States and Canada. While in this business he acquired a keen insight into business methods and this has been of material benefit to him in carrying on the many undertakings in which
he has since been engaged. In 1882 a partnership was formed with J. J. Randall, the firm taking the name of Randall & Miller, and together they embarked extensively in the building business, particularly in Brooklyn, where a very extensive business is still carried on. These gentlemen are largely interested in valuable tracts of land in the vicinity of Freeport, and the progress, development and rapid growth of this village must be almost enlargely attributable to the energy and push of this firm.

Mr. Miller has always been remarkably public spirited, and helped to organize the Freeport Bank, of which he has been one of its directors from the beginning. He is president of the Queens and Suffolk County Insurance Company, and was one of the organizers of the Seventeenth Ward Bank of Brooklyn, being a director in each of them. He favored the incorporation of the village of Freeport, pushed the question of water works, has served continuously as a member of the board of water commissioners, and after one of the village school houses was burned and the entire place threatened with destruction, he was one of the first and most enthusiastic to favor the organization of a thoroughly equipped fire department. He also joined the progressive element and urged the building of the present splendid school house, and immediately after he and his partner had erected this building, he was elected a member of the board of education, thus showing the appreciation with which his efforts had been regarded. Three times he has been elected president of the village, being the present incumbent, and is also president of the board of water commissioners. In several large financial institutions of Brooklyn he is a director, is actively engaged in contracting and building, and has often discharged the duties of trustee and executor, from which it will be seen that he is a very busy man.

Mr. Miller is very genial and cordial in manners, and his success has not removed him from, but rather brought him in closer touch with the people, from whom he commands universal respect, affection and confidence, and by whom his advice is often sought. Politically he is an ardent Republican, and he has often served as president of political organizations. Although political offices have frequently been tendered him, he has always declined them, except such as were without salary, as the demands of patriotism lay upon loyal citizens. The same earnestness and fidelity which have marked his business and public life have also characterized his religious obligations, and he is a devoted member of the Freeport Methodist Episcopal Church. At Freeport he joined heartily in the erection of the new Methodist Church, and he and his partner took the contract to build the church at cost. He is now president of the board of trustees and is one of the constant attendants of the services.

Mr. Miller was married in 1876 to Miss Mary E. Randall, daughter of Jehial W. and Marietta Randall of Suffolk County, and to their union four children have been given: Raymond J., Marietta R., William G., Jr., and Florence Elizabeth. The home life of Mr. Miller is singularly happy, and in his bright, cheerful and intelligent wife he has found a
true help-mate. Our subject is now in the prime and vigor of manhood, active and capable, well known for his sound judgment, is a devoted friend, a congenial companion and is a true Christian in every sense of the word. By diligence he has secured success and his friends delight in the fact that a long life of usefulness is still before him.

Charles L. Wallace, editor of the “South Side Observer,” of Rockville Centre, was born in Ponsonby, Ontario, December 13, 1855, and is a son of Donald and Harriet (Lasby) Wallace. On his father’s side he traces his lineage to Scotland, while his mother was of English birth and ancestry, and in the combination of the honest thrift of one race with the will power and determination of the other nation may be found the impelling force that has led to his success. His paternal grandparents, George and Margaret Wallace, died at the respective ages of seventy-four and sixty-six, and is maternal grandparents, Charles and Mary Lasby, died when eighty-nine and sixty-eight, respectively.

The father of our subject was born in Rossshire, Scotland, February 14, 1816, emigrated from his native land to Caracas, South America, thence to Ontario, and later removed to Pasadena, Cal., where he now resides. His occupation through his active years was that of a farmer, and he also engaged for a time in business as a manufacturing chemist, but at this writing he is living retired. In 1838 he married Miss Harriet Lasby, who was born in London, England, in 1822, and they became the parents of the following-named children, all of whom are living: John D., Lavinia M., George, Charles L., Albert J., Francis S., Matilda H., Alexander H., and Mary A.

In the public schools and Rockwood Academy, Charles L. Wallace acquired a practical education. Coming to Rockville Centre, he began to learn the printer’s trade in 1873, and soon had a thorough knowledge of the typographical art. In 1875 he became editor of the “South Side Observer,” and is still the editor and half-owner of the newspaper property at Rockville Centre. Besides this work, he has established an extensive real estate business here and in Freeport and vicinity, having sold over $3,000,000 worth of property since 1885, and having been instrumental in locating hundreds of families in the South Side villages, between Rockaway and Babylon.

At Merrick, L. I., October 1, 1879, Mr. Wallace was united in marriage to Miss Emily E. Smith, a member of one of the oldest families of that locality, whose first representatives in this country came from England to Stamford, Conn., and thence to Merrick, in 1654. Her father, Carman Smith, was born on the ancestral homestead settled by the “Rock” Smith family, and at this writing resides with his daughter in Freeport. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace are the parents of two sons, Roy Smith and Clyde Carman Wallace, who are being educated in Miss Field’s Academy and Freeport Union School. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal Church. Fraternally, Mr. Wallace is connected with the
Freeport Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Legion of Honor, Foresters, fire department, Union League Club, and the Lincoln Club. Politically a Republican, he has never sought recognition in an official capacity, the only positions he has ever held being those of treasurer of the school board and examiner of state regents school.

**George W. Bergen.** The wholesale and retail grocery trade occupies a very important position in the commerce of a thriving city, because this department of business includes nearly every necessary article of food, among which are the products of almost every country of the world. One of the prominent and popular business men of Freeport, L. I., is George W. Bergen, who is engaged in the wholesale grocery business in Brooklyn, N. Y., under the firm name of Valentine, Bergen & Co. The members of this firm are leading business men of that city, and the large establishment is carried on by George P. Bergen, the son of our subject. Mr. Valentine is now deceased.

George W. Bergen was born on the present site of Brooklyn, in 1814, and is a son of John and Johanna (Wycoff) Bergen, natives of Long Island, where most of their lives were passed. The father, who was a tiller of the soil, spent a number of years in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, dying in the latter state. He was a quiet, well respected citizen. His estimable wife died in Long Island. During his early life George W. Bergen had limited educational advantages. From the age of fifteen to seventeen he resided with an uncle at New Lots, now a part of Brooklyn. At the latter age he was employed as clerk in the wholesale and retail grocery house of Thomas Carman, which was located in Fulton Street, nearly opposite the present store of Valentine, Bergen & Co. He was with this firm nearly two years. Later, in 1835, he and his brother engaged in the grocery business in that city, but one year later George sold out and went to Vicksburg, Miss., where he engaged in the retail grocery business with a brother who was located there. Eighteen months later Mr. Bergen withdrew from the firm and in 1838 returned to Brooklyn, where he purchased the business of Thomas Carman, who subsequently became his father-in-law.

This business has since been successfully conducted under the firm name of Valentine, Bergen & Co. It is one of the leading wholesale enterprises in Brooklyn and is carried on by George P. Bergen since the death of Mr. Valentine. While quite active for his years, our subject only visits his place of business two or three times a week. He came to Freeport in 1869, previous to which he had made his home in Brooklyn for many years. His home in Freeport is a beautiful one and is kept in a most exemplary condition by his excellent wife, formerly Miss Susan Carman, daughter of Thomas Carman, who was a prominent citizen of Freeport. Mr. and Mrs. Bergen celebrated their nuptials in 1838, and four children were born to this union. Those living are Elizabeth C., wife of Horace D. Badger of Brooklyn; George P., a citizen of Freeport and his
father’s partner in business; and Anna V., wife of Horace Secor, Jr., who is a prominent attorney of New York City, but a resident of Freeport. One son, Charles M., is deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Bergen are members of the Presbyterian Church, in which he is a trustee and an elder. In politics he has been a life-long Republican and in the ‘70s was elected county treasurer of Queens County, which responsible position he filled in a most efficient manner for three years. He is a director of the Brooklyn City Railroad Company, the Dime Savings Bank and the Brooklyn Bank, the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company of New York and Brooklyn, and the only original director now on the board, also a director in the Nassau Fire Insurance Company of Brooklyn. He has ever been upright and conscientious in business matters, has been unusually prosperous, and is richer and better for the experience that each decade has brought him.

George Wallace, senior member of the law firm of Wallace & Smith, with offices at Jamaica, counselor of the Queens County Board of Supervisors, and president of the Queens County Title Company, was born at Elora, Ontario, in 1849, being a descendant of a long line of Scotch ancestors. He is a son of Donald Wallace, who was born in the highlands of Scotland in 1816, and still enjoys a vigorous old age, having for many years made his home in California. The parental family consists of nine children, all of whom are still living. The eldest son, John D., is one of the leading men of the Republican party in North Dakota; Charles is editor of the leading Republican paper of Queens County, published at Rockville Centre, and in which his brother George is also interested; Frank is a prominent citizen of Los Angeles County, Cal.; Albert, for years one of the influential men of Pasadena, Cal., is now owner of a large fruit ranch in San Bernardino; Alexander H. is also a ranch owner in the same county; Lavinia M. is the wife of R. H. Young, editor of the “Methodist Herald” of Minneapolis, Minn.; Matilda H. married Rev. James Healy, a minister in the Methodist Episcopal denomination, now holding a pastorate in Southern California; Mary is the wife of Frank Johnson, who is engaged in the banking business at Pasadena, Cal.

Coming to Long Island in boyhood, the subject of this article has been actively connected with public affairs in Queens County for more than a quarter of a century, being especially prominent and influential in the town of Hempstead. The years of his youth were spent on a farm, but his inclinations not running in the line of agricultural pursuits, he devoted himself to his studies with such assiduity that he was able, at an early age, to engage in the instruction of others, and at different times he had charge of the schools at Lawrence, Rockville Centre and Freeport, Queens County.
Endowed by nature with a logical mind, keen discriminative powers and accurate insight, Mr. Wallace was fitted for the profession which he chose as his life calling. He entered the University of New York, from which he graduated at the completion of the course, and since that time he has given his attention to the details of his large and general law practice. This includes a large real estate law practice, and he is president of the Queens County Title Company, the only organization of its kind in the county. He has also made a specialty of municipal law, and has frequently been called upon to act as counsel for various boards of officials. In the spring of 1895 he was appointed attorney to the Board of Supervisors, a responsible position in which his services have been marked by signal success. In addition to the office at Jamaica, he has one in Rockville Centre, and is numbered among the most influential attorneys of the county.

Mr. Wallace has his family residence at Freeport, where he married Miss Mariana, daughter of the late Benjamin R. Raynor, whose ancestors were the first settlers of the place. They have two children, Harriet R. and Archer B.

Politically Mr. Wallace is a pronounced Republican, and a recognized party leader. For a number of years he served as justice of the peace of the town of Hempstead, and in his official duties displayed executive and judicial ability, discharging the duties connected with the position in a manner satisfactory to all. His enterprising spirit has been felt in all the movements to advance the professional, moral and social welfare of the county. Few, if any, attorneys ever practiced at the bar of Queens County who have been more thoroughly acquainted with the philosophies and intricacies of the law than he. While always working with zeal and energy for the cause of his client, he never resorts to unfair means in order to win a case. His success as a practitioner is due to the fact that he possesses legal abilities of a high order and has by his integrity won the confidence of judges and juries.

Both in precept and example Mr. Wallace advocates temperance principles, believing that they are necessary to the attainment of the highest manhood as well as the greatest welfare of city and nation. He is an active member of the Ever Ready Hook and Ladder Company of Freeport, in which he takes great interest, having been foreman since its organization. In religious belief he is connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Socially he is a Mason, and a charter member of the Freeport Lodge of Odd Fellows, in which he has filled all the chairs.

William Edgar Golder. It has been said that the calling of the physician is one of the most important to which a man can devote his attention, but to the majority of minds the calling of the druggist is no less important. Indeed, it would be difficult to name a branch of business that is more indispensably important than that devoted to the
investigation and study of drugs and the preparation of medicines. No more is there any line of business demanding more ability, care and scientific knowledge. One of the leading druggists of Freeport is William Edgar Golder, who was born in this village in 1856 to William T. and Caroline (Raynor) Golder, both of whom were native Long Islanders. The early life of the former was spent in learning the harness maker’s trade, which calling he followed until Ft. Sumter was fired upon, when his patriotic spirit led him to enlist in the Fourth New York Heavy Artillery. While in the service of his country he was stricken down with disease and died at Chain Bridge, Va. His widow, who is a member of the prominent old Raynor family of Long Island, still survives him, but her health is much impaired.

Our subject received his educational training in the Freeport public schools, and when still in his teens he took up the life of a boatman, which he followed for two seasons, expecting to enlist in the navy. He had a strong inclination for such a vocation, received, he believes, from one of his teachers who was in the naval service during the rebellion. Finally, however, he decided to take up the study of pharmacy and in order to obtain a practical knowledge of the business and fit himself for this most important calling he became a clerk in a drug store. After acquiring a thorough insight into the business he established a store of his own, which has proved highly successful financially. His place of business is neat and inviting, well equipped with a complete and choice line of drugs, toilet articles, in fact, everything necessary to a well-kept drug establishment and in the compounding of prescriptions Mr. Golder has no superior, for he is very careful and accurate. His first knowledge of the business was acquired under Dr. G. H. Hammond and subsequently he became a partner of the Doctor’s, this connection lasting about a year. He continued in this business until failing health caused him to sell out in 1890, but two years later he opened his present drug store at Milburn, this being a branch of the Freeport store, which he again controls, and is conducting the two stores successfully. Mr. Golder is a graduate of the National Institute of Pharmacy of Chicago, is also registered by the New York State Board of Pharmacy and is a member of the New York State Pharmaceutical Association. He is well posted in his profession, and makes a point of keeping up with the times in all the progress made therein, and his reputation as an honorable man of business is well known.

The marriage of Mr. Golder with Miss Clara A. Bedell, of Greenwich Point, was celebrated in 1878. She is a daughter of John W. Bedell and has borne her husband four children: Millard W., Earle V.; Russell V. and Hazel C. Mr. and Mrs. Golder are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Mr. Golder has been a trustee for thirteen years and has twice served as superintendent of the Sabbath-school. Socially he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Although formerly a Democrat in his political views, he now affiliates with the Prohibition party, and looks
Wallace H. Cornwell. Among the native-born citizens of Queens County who have accumulated a competence in the oyster business and as a farmer, prominent mention belongs to Mr. Cornwell, who has followed these lines of work for many years. He was born in Baldwin, in the year 1854, and is the son of Charles B. and Sarah E. (Carman) Cornwell. The father was also a native of Baldwin and the mother’s birth occurred in Canada.

The father of our subject was for many years actively engaged in farming in this community, making a specialty of market gardening, in the early days conveying the products to market. Later he became interested in the oyster business here, and for ten years met with success in this calling. For several years prior to his decease he spent his summers in retirement from work of any kind in a pleasant home and enjoyed many comforts, which had been secured by his intelligent labors in the past. He was a true Christian gentleman and thoroughly devoted to the Methodist Church, with which he had been connected for many years. He died very suddenly in 1895 of heart disease. His estimable wife is still living and is in the enjoyment of excellent health, although advanced in years.

The subject of this sketch first attended the schools taught in his district and sometime in his teens was sent as a pupil to the Freeport Academy, where he conducted his studies for several years. On completing his education he returned his attention to farming and has ever since been interested in the growing of potatoes, lima beans, cabbage, etc., for which products he finds a ready market in New York and Brooklyn. His farm is one hundred and fifty acres in extent, and is one of the largest in Queens County. It is cultivated in an intelligent and profitable manner and is the source of a handsome income to its owner. His home is one of the finest residences in the county, situated on rising ground and surrounded by lawns, gardens and an orchard. Near by is a pleasant lake, which Mr. Cornwell has recently constructed at considerable expense. Taken as a whole, the place forms an ideal country home.

For the past eight or ten years Mr. Cornwell has given considerable attention to the oyster business, giving employment during the busy season to some twenty or twenty-
five men. There are very few men in the county more familiar with this business than Mr. Cornwell. Not a single detail connected with the work ever escapes his attention, and there is nothing pertaining to it that he has not thoroughly mastered. Such has been his devotion to his various interests that he has accumulated a handsome competence and is very justly regarded as one of the substantial men of the county.

Mr. Cornwell was married in 1876 to Miss Isabel Raynor, the daughter of John C. Raynor, whose family is one of the oldest and most prominent in the vicinity of Freeport. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Cornwell three children survive, Nettie M., Arthur B. and James T. Both our subject and his estimable wife are worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is steward, trustee and treasurer. Fraternally, he belongs to the Odd Fellows, and in politics gives his support to the Republican party, in whose purity and teachings he has an abiding faith. While an active worker in the ranks of his party he has never desired or sought political preferment, although he would doubtless have made an excellent official. He is treasurer of School District No. 10 and enjoys the respect and esteem of all with whom he has become acquainted. Mr. Cornwell is director in the Freeport Bank, of which he was one of the organizers, and is also director of the Freeport Land Company.

Chauncy T. Sprague. This well known citizen of Freeport was born near this village May 17, 1838, to the marriage of Samuel and Mary L. (Terry) Sprague, natives of Long Island, where all their lives were passed. Early in life Samuel Sprague learned the carpenter’s trade, which he followed with fair success for many years. He then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and was following this time-honored calling at the time of his death in 1879. Quiet and unassuming, all his interests were centered in his home. Mrs. Sprague passed away in the year 1883. The parents were most estimable people, and had many friends.

During his youthful days Chauncy T. Sprague had only the advantages of the country schools, and as they were anything but good, at that time, much of his education has been received by self-study since. On the farm he grew to sturdy manhood, and assisted his father in the duties on the same until nineteen years old, when he left home, and began learning the trade of blacksmith, seven and a half years being thus employed. Afterwards he was engaged in sailing and fishing for about fifteen years, and in 1878 he engaged in the oyster business, which occupation has claimed his attention ever since. His oysters are sold to hotels and restaurants in New York City, and he makes two shipments per week. He is a wide-awake, industrious citizen, who, by his perseverance and integrity, has accumulated a fair share of this world’s goods.
Mr. Sprague was married in the year 1864 to Miss Ann Augusta Duryea, daughter of Peter Duryea, who is a worthy citizen of this county. Two children were born to this union, Mary E. and Emma J., the latter now deceased. Mrs. Sprague and Miss Mary are earnest members of the Presbyterian Church. In politics Mr. Sprague is a Republican, and an active worker for his party. He has been a member of the board of health of the village, and is a director of the Freeport Bank, also of the Freeport Land Company. He has ever been alive to the improvements of the village, and he and family are among the best citizens of the place.

Mrs. Martha W. (Smith) Cornelius is a native of Freeport, where she has resided all her life, and where she is surrounded by many warm friends. She is the daughter of Raynor R. and Elizabeth (Dixon) Smith, the former of whom was born at Raynortown, now Freeport, and was a bayman in his early life. Later he took up the occupation of farming, and was a successful and progressive tiller of the soil. His death occurred in Freeport in the year 1869, and in his demise that village lost one of its most exemplary citizens. The mother of Mrs. Cornelius was born in the city of New York, but later became a resident of Freeport, where she resides at the present time.

Mrs. Cornelius secured a fair schooling in Freeport, and was first married to Charles A. Powell, a most worthy citizen of Hempstead, where for many years he successfully engaged in merchandising. Later he served as superintendent of the county poor. He was a man of unusual ability, and one who was at the head of all good work. A very promising career was opening before him, when he was stricken down by disease, and died at the early age of thirty-eight years. The two children born to this marriage were as follows: Fannie B., wife of Harvey B. Smith, who is the popular teller in the Freeport Bank in Freeport; and Charles S. Powell, who is postmaster at Freeport.

In 1880 Mrs. Powell was married to Carman Cornelius, who for many years was engaged in blacksmithing. In connection with that trade he also followed agricultural pursuits and surveying, in which lines he was very proficient. He was a man of superior education, and took a deep interest in the politics of Queens County. At the time of his death, in the year 1893, he was deputy treasurer of the county. Mrs. Cornelius is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and a lady whose estimable qualities have endeared her to all. In social matters she and her children stand very high at Freeport.

William Foreman. Many of the most prominent and successful business men of America received their early education in the superior institutions of other countries. Freeport contains many such men, and among them is William Foreman, who was born in Tunbridge Wells, England, in 1847, and who has been a resident of this country since
1857. He has made his way to the front in business circles and his adopted country has reason to feel proud of his ability and enterprise. His parents, William and Mary (Kitchenham) Foreman, were natives of England, and there spent their entire lives. The father was what was known in England as a whitesmith, and followed that avocation very successfully until the time of his death, in 1856. His wife preceded him to the grave in 1855.

William Foreman, Jr., left his native country when but ten years old and received the rudiments of an education in the schools of Canada. Subsequently he entered the normal school in Toronto and graduated from this school with honors, being the only one out of a class of one hundred and twenty who received a first-class grade A certificate. Later he took up the profession of teaching, and was engaged in the same in Canada for five years. Early in the year 1871 he came to the States and began teaching in January of that year, following this for three years at Merrick, Freeport, and the village of Hempstead, L. I. Following this he embarked in the lumber business at Freeport, and has steadily carried on this industry up to the present time. He is perhaps the most extensive lumber dealer in the town of Hempstead, and is a thoroughgoing and progressive business man.

In 1873 Mr. Foreman was united with Miss Jennie Hewlett, daughter of George Hewlett, who comes of one of the oldest families of Long Island, its members settling here over two centuries ago. To Mr. and Mrs. Foreman have been born three children, as follows: Charles Milton, Stella and Nellie H. Mr. and Mrs. Foreman hold membership in the Presbyterian Church and the former is an elder and a trustee in the same. Republican in his political views, Mr. Foreman never aspired to office, yet takes a deep interest in the welfare of his party. He is vice-president of the Freeport Bank and a director of the Freeport Land Company. He is thoroughly interested in the affairs of the community which he has helped to build, is a gentleman of honorable principles, and possesses the full trust of his patrons.

Smith Cox, of Freeport, has risen to his present position as a business man by strict devotion to the interests of patrons. In all cases he endeavors to give satisfaction, and his storage house is one of the most reliable and responsible in the village. He is a native of Freeport, born in January, 1845, and is the son of Elbert and Ann (Valentine) Cox, both natives of Long Island.

Elbert Cox was a manufacturer of shoes during his lifetime, and was a man whose uprightness and integrity were well known. He held a number of local positions, but the latter part of his days was spent in retirement. Respected and highly esteemed by all, this worthy citizen passed away in January, 1894. Mrs. Cox is still living (1895), and is
now seventy-eight years old. Their son, Smith Cox, received limited educational advantages during his youth, and when fourteen years old left home and made his way to Hempstead, where he engaged as a clerk in a general store. There a number of years of his life were passed, and then he and an associate clerk went to Brooklyn, N. Y., where they engaged in the express business. Eight years later Mr. Cox’s partner died and he continued the business alone, being in it altogether about twenty-five years. Disposing of that he embarked in the storage business, and although he suffered a severe loss by fire in 1892, he is still conducting business with all his old-time fervor, at the corner of Fulton Street and Flatbush Avenue, and at No. 445 Carlton Avenue.

Mr. Cox was married in the month of November, 1879, to Miss Alice B. Raynor, a native of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, and the daughter of Edmond S. Raynor, also of that village. In 1893 Mr. Cox moved his family to Freeport, and here he resides, going to and from his business every day. In political belief he is a supporter of Republican principles, and although he has never aspired to office, he is serving his second term as a member of the board of trustees of the village of Freeport. He is a man whose career is above reproach and who is an ardent supporter of all movements of importance.