

LATHROP J. TRACY.

The lineage of the Tracy family comes down in an unbroken line from Egbert I, king of England, to the present time. In Puella F. Mason's Lineage of the Tracy Family we find that the Tracys have been prominent in the past, as they are at the present time.

Judge Josiah Tracy, of the thirty-fifth generation, was born at Franklin, Connecticut, October 1, 1796, and married Diantha Lathrop August 18, 1824, at which time they removed to Painesville, Ohio, where he engaged in the mercantile business. In 1832 he removed to Vermillion and was the superintendent of the Huron Iron Works. In 1835 he moved to Huron and engaged in the commission business. At different periods he served as mayor, justice of the peace, colonel of militia, state senator and judge of Erie county. He moved to Mansfield in 1847 and died January 11, 1857, and at his request was buried at Huron, beside his wife, who had died April 22, 1840.

Of the thirty-sixth generation we make note of the late Lathrop J. Tracy, the eldest son of Judge Josiah Tracy, who was born at Painesville, Ohio, May 26, 1825. His earlier years were spent with his parents in Vermillion, and later at Huron. At the age of eighteen he removed to Honesdale, Pennsylvania, where he was employed as the secretary and bookkeeper in the office of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, and later was in the employ of the same company at Rondout, New York. On June 10, 1852, he was married to Eliza Kirtland, at Honesdale, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of Daniel P. Kirtland. She survives him, with two sons,—Frederick K., of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Rufus A.,—and one daugh-

ter,—Mrs. Mary T. Roe, of Mansfield. Another son, Daniel Lathrop, died May 22, 1894, at Great Falls, Montana.

Mr. Tracy moved to this city in 1854 and for many years was engaged in the grain and wool business, succeeding the firm of Sturges, Tracy & Company. About 1885 he became associated with his brother, F. E. Tracy, in the wholesale grocery business, and later became the secretary of the Tracy & Avery Company. For many years, and at the time of his death, he was a director of the Sandusky, Mansfield & Newark Railroad Company. At the organization of the Merchants & Manufacturers' Insurance Company, October 10, 1876, he was elected its president, which office he continued to fill until his death. He was always greatly interested in the work of the Young Men's Christian Association, and during the earlier years of that body was actively identified with its interests, serving as the president of the Mansfield Association. Quoting from his annual report to that association (1870), he says:

“While we have not accomplished all that we would, and in the review may not realize as an actuality the full accomplishment of that we hoped for, and prayed for in the early morning of 1870, happy, blessed will it be for us if in this review we can, as an association and as individual members of this association, say ‘we have done what we could.’ The Master lays no greater, no less, a demand upon each one of us than this; and, as we each for himself and unto God shall make answer, we may gather new inspiration and zeal and consecration for that which lies before us in the coming year.

“And now, brethren beloved, in looking back over the past, while it can hardly be otherwise than that there will be regrets that we have come short in many things, may we not rejoice that the great Master has given us so much of His presence and blessing in the association work of the year? that so often we have known for a surety that we walked not in our own strength or wisdom, as we have gone out by twos and fours on the Sabbath afternoons of the year at the command of our devotional committee, fulfilling the appointments made by them at the various churches and schoolhouses in our vicinity. Have we not felt our hearts burn within us as we have journeyed and talked by the way? and have we not known of a surety of His being ‘in the midst’ when we have endeavored to tell these congregations of ‘Jesus and His love? Can we ever forget what our eyes saw and what our ears heard of the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit in our meetings at Spring Mills, at Lucas and at Carter’s church, where for three weeks in succession meetings were held every night in the

week, Saturdays excepted, and where as a fruitage forty-five souls confessed Christ?

"No, my brethren. Let us count it all joy that the Master permitted us to enter into such blessedness of service for Him; and may we gather from these hallowed memories new consecration of life and increased zeal for His service in our association work for the year that lies before us."

Resuming the life narrative, we may add that Mr. Tracy was always an active member of the First Congregational church, serving at various times as a deacon and a trustee. The death of Lathrop J. Tracy occurred on Friday, September 24, 1897, at Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, whither he had gone a month before for the benefit of his health. From among the tributes paid to his memory we quote the following from a Mansfield paper:

"It was with a feeling of sincere sorrow that the news of his death was received in this city, where for so many years he has been a good citizen, respected and beloved for his many admirable qualities of head and heart. That his familiar form and kindly face and voice shall be seen and heard no more in meeting and greeting, with the friends of his long and busy life, causes saddened hearts.

"Mr. Tracy was a man of quiet and unostentatious demeanor. His disposition was that which made him avoid rather than seek that prominence so sought after by many; but his sterling qualities of manhood were known and admired by those who came within the circle of his acquaintance. His life was pure and blameless. He was kind and charitable, a Christian gentleman,—as another has written of him, 'one of nature's noblemen.' Advancing age did not impair the genial sunshine of his nature. In all his relations with his fellow men he was courteous. He was the agreeable companion of his associates and men of his own years, and at the same time his heart was ever young; and in him the children had a friend. The memory of Lathrop J. Tracy will live long in the hearts of all who knew him."

Rufus Avery Tracy, of the thirty-seventh generation, the third son of Lathrop J. Tracy, was born at Mansfield, Ohio, September 8, 1865, attended Oberlin College during 1880-1, and January 16, 1882, entered the employ of the Citizens' National Bank, serving as a messenger boy, bookkeeper, teller and assistant cashier. On account of impaired health he severed his connection with the bank April 15, 1894, and took a position in the employ of the Mansfield Mutual Insurance Company, also establishing a local insurance agency in company with J. M. Cook, under the firm name of Cook &

Tracy. In January, 1895, he was appointed general agent of the Mansfield Mutual Insurance Company.

October 17, 1888, he married Miss Harriet Edith Wagner, a daughter of John W. and Malinda C. Wagner. Their children are: John Wagner Tracy, born January 13, 1890, and died June 18, following; Rachel Wagner Tracy, born October 28, 1892; and Sarah Lathrop Tracy, born August 22, 1895.

Mr. Tracy is a young man of fine business ability and exemplary character.