

[Ensign, Henry J.]

Henry J. Ensign, whose portrait appears in connection with this sketch, was born in Alexander, this county, August 14, 1821. His parents, Hon. Abial and Abbie (Higley) Ensign, of English descent, were natives of Hartford, Conn. His father was a printer, and early in life settled in Utica, N.Y., where he owned, edited and published the *Utica Democrat* several years, and also represented his district two terms in the State legislature. Later he removed to Alexander, where, by his integrity, intelligence, and fine abilities, he soon gained the confidence and respect of his party in Genesee County, who sent him to represent it in the legislature three terms. He was also postmaster of Alexander, which office, with the office of justice of the peace, he was holding at the time of his death.

Mr. [Abial] Ensign was liberal in his religious views, and he and his worthy wife were members of the Universalist Church. Their children were Louis, deceased; Clara, who married John Parish, and resides in Nevada; Emily, who married Robert Kenyon (both deceased); Parmelia, who married George Slayton, and resides in Liberty, N.Y.; Horace, who resides in Illinois; Charles, who lives in Albion, Mich.; and Henry J., the subject of this sketch. Henry J. Ensign received an academic education in Alexander Seminary. After completing his school days he commenced his business life in Batavia by engaging in the manufacture and sale of harnesses and harnessmakers' goods. In 1865 he became the partner of Hon. R. A. Maxwell (ex-State treasurer and present State superintendent of insurance) in the business of malting. Mr. Ensign continued his harness business until about six years before his death, and was a member of the malting firm at his decease, November 30, 1881.

F. W. Beers., *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y., 1788-1890* (Syracuse, NY: J. W. Vose & Co., 1890) p. 272