

[Martin, Alexander]

Alexander Martin

Prominent among the early business men and honored citizens of North Bloomfield was numbered Alexander Martin, who was born in Paris, New York, January 10, 1800, a son of Stephen and Bethiah (Barrows) Martin. His father was born January 26, 1761, and died December 19, 1834. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and at the time of his death was drawing a pension from the government for services rendered his country in her struggle for independence. His wife, who was born May 4, 1764, passed away on the 13th of March, 1841. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom Alexander was ninth in order of birth. All are now deceased.

In 1810 Alexander Martin removed with the family to North Bloomfield, where his father conducted a small foundry, and on attaining his majority he took charge of the business, caring for his parents during their declining years. He continued to carry on the business with marked success for many years, there being no competition at that line, and his customers came from long distances, exchanging grain and barter of all kinds for his goods. In this way he gained an extensive acquaintance and a reputation for fair dealing and honesty throughout the county.

On the 26th of March, 1823, Mr. Martin was united in marriage with Miss Ruth Harwood, a daughter of Simon and Ruth (Hall) Harwood. Her father was born August 23, 1766, and died March 3, 1816, while her mother died October 18, 1838. To our subject and his wife were born ten children, of whom two are still living, namely: Mrs. T. H. Holden, of Honeoye Falls; and Mrs. J. W. Davis, of Livonia Station. For over half a century the parents traveled life's journey together, sharing its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity, and in 1873 they celebrated their golden wedding, on which occasion five of their children were present. The wife and mother died in July, 1875, and the same year their son, B. Franklin, also passed away. Another son, Amasa H., died September 23, 1898, leaving a widow, who in her maidenhood was Julia Ann Garfield, and three children: Mrs. George W. Atwell, of Lima, New York; Alexander; and Dean G. On the 4th of September, 1900, occurred the death of the last surviving son, Alexander Dwight, who is survived by his wife, Harriett Huntington, and the following children: Mrs. George T. Salmon, of Lima; Mrs. Edwin Croft, Jr., of Honeoye Falls; Frances Irene; Clarence Dwight and Irving Franklin. Mr. Martin was again married, in October, 1876, his second union being with Mrs. Elizabeth Hitchcock, widow of Amos Hitchcock and daughter of Eleazer Harwood. She was a cousin of his former wife and was born January 29, 1814.

In 1826 Mr. Martin purchased a house in North Bloomfield, which was his home until called to his final rest August 8, 1877, when he died very suddenly from neuralgia of the heart. He was a constant attendant of the

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Universalist church of North Bloomfield and one of its chief and earnest supporters for many years. He united with the Masons at Allen's Hill in 1822, and was one of the last two surviving members of Union Lodge, No. 50, of Lima, who remained true to the order through the Morgan excitement. He was also a member of Morning Star Chapter, R. A. M., of Lima, and served as master of the blue lodge at one time. His political support was given the Democracy until 1848, when he became identified with the Freesoil movement, and upon the organization of the Republican party joined its ranks and continued one of its staunch supporters throughout life. He represented the town of Lima in the board of supervisors several terms, and ever gave his support to every enterprise for the public good.

Mr. Martin enjoyed the well earned distinction of being what the public calls a "self-made man," and an analysis of his character reveals the fact that enterprise, well directed efforts and honorable dealing were essential features in his prosperity. As a citizen he met every requirement and manifested a commendable interest in everything calculated to promote the general welfare. He was sympathetic and generous, extending a helping hand to the poor and needy, and was always ready to aid those less fortunate than himself. He had a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout his own and adjoining counties, and was universally respected and esteemed.

*The Biographical Record of the City of Rochester and Monroe County,
New York (New York: J. S. Clarke, 1902), pp. 302-4*

Transcribed on 1 Aug 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY