

[Martin, Alexander]

ALEXANDER MARTIN

The death of Alexander Martin of Lima occurred on December 21 [1940] at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles Garfield, on what is known as the West Bloomfield-Lima Road. This was his home for many years. He was married to Miss Mary B. Houghton of Eatonville in 1887. They resided for a short time in Honeoye Falls and then located on the farm on the West Bloomfield Road. He was employed by the Bank of Lima in 1918 and continued in this position until the bank was closed in 1932. He was an active member of the Universalist Church in North Bloomfield as long as it existed [until about 1920]. He was a trustee of the Clinton Liberal Institute, now a part of the Theological School of St. Lawrence University, for many years, having been re-elected at the Oneonta Convention in October. He was a member of the Livingston County Historical Society and was clerk of his School District for forty years. The funeral service was conducted at the old home by the Rev. Edward L. Whittemore, pastor of the Lima Presbyterian Church, on December 24. Surviving are two daughters, two sons, five grandchildren and a sister.

Empire State Universalist, Cortland NY, January 1941

By S. [Solomon] E. Hitchcock, Livingston Co. [NY] Historical Society

Seventy years ago, when he was eight and I was twelve, I first met Alexander Martin. A Sunday dinner on a farm, after church, over in Conesus, had been completed. The family had company, but now the meal was over and the family and guests could visit around the table as well, or better, without the boys around, so Alex Martin and I were told to go out and play. I don't remember just where or how we played, but it began a longtime friendship and acquaintance which continued until Mr. Martin's death.

At that time my father lived on a farm at "Crocket's Corners" in the town of Conesus, only a few rods from the old Universalist church. The father and mother of our subject came to Conesus once or twice each year to attend church there. At their home in North Bloomfield they were as loyal members of that faith as were my father and mother, and they frequently met during the year at various places where two-day meetings were held. I remember that on this occasion they brought with them the venerable grandfather of our boy, the original Alexander Martin, and I rejoice to note that the farm on which he lived, and from which he went with his son, daughter-in-law and grandson, to hear the good old-fashioned doctrinal sermon in the church, is still owned and occupied by a descendant of the family.

[Martin, Alexander]

Our paths diverged when he went to attend the Clinton Liberal Institute at Fort Plain, N.Y., and I went to attend the Geneseo Normal, but we always got together sometime during the summer to check on our school work. He served for many years on the board of trustees of his alma mater.

There is every reason to believe that both he and his brother, the late Dean Martin, also of Lima, made specially good use of their educational advantages while they were down there, because both, a little later, did much to improve the Genesee Valley.

Mr. Martin married Miss Mary Houghton of Little Falls, and almost immediately purchased the farm about one mile east of Lima, where he lived until his death.

Mr. Martin was a careful business advisor and no one who sought his advice needed to go farther for information along lines with which he was familiar. A farmer from childhood, he never knew any better or more honest business. Politics and the professional life had no allurements for him. When the community was shocked by the sudden passing of the president of the local bank, no name except that of Mr. Martin was suggested to go into that officer's place, and it guaranteed security so far as that could be done.

When the sudden passing of Judge Doty and Dr. Holcomb made it necessary for me, then the vice-president, to come more actively and immediately into the work of this [historical] society, Mr. Martin was the first person to whom I called for help, except those already enlisted through their residence in Geneseo. He at once consented to serve again on its board of counsel, where he had occupied a seat for several years at an earlier period, and he remained there until his death. He had also been vice-president during Dr. Holcombe's incumbency for three years, but declined the presidency. Later, as chairman of our nominating committee, it will be remembered that he conducted the present president to her seat at her first election.

One sister, Mrs. George W. Atwell of Rochester, and four sons and daughters are surviving: Richard, who, as stated, owns and occupies the ancestral acres at North Bloomfield; Gerald, who resides on the farm earlier purchased by his father in Lima; Mrs. Charles Garfield of Williamson, N.Y.; and Mrs. Julia Anthony of Alma, Mich. There are also three grandchildren.

Mr. Martin was a strong, capable man. It would be well if this society and our respective communities could be served by men like him.

Christian Leader, Boston MA, 20 Dec 1941
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