

BIO

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"Commemorative Biographical Record of Ulster County, New York"

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Many selected extract pages.

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kota; Sarah O., who married, first, George Cromwell, a farmer in Orange county, and, second, Theodore Brinckerhoff, a farmer and banker in Dutchess county; William H., our subject; and Catherine, who died in infancy.

William H. La Tourette attended the district school until he was fifteen years of age, when his father, with some of the neighbors, built a school known as the Rural Academy, and hired teachers of scholarly attainments, under whom our subject finished his education. He worked upon his father's farm five years before settling in Wallkill, where, in February, 1869, he purchased a gristmill, and in 1885 a feed store in Wallkill, both of which he still owns. On June 4, 1873, he married Miss Mary A. Howell, a lady of Welsh descent, who was born in Little Britain, Orange Co., N. Y. Her great-great-grandfather came from Wales to Massachusetts, and was one of the eight "original undertakers" who settled at Southampton in 1640. He was the progenitor of the Howell family in that locality. Lieut. Hezekiah Howell was a descendant in the direct line. Edward Howell married Phebe, daughter of Thomas Halsey, September 10, 1702. They had four children, the eldest being Hezekiah, who was born May 6, 1709. He came from Long Island to Orange county, and in 1827 settled at Blaggs Clove, where, with others, he took up two thousand acres of land. He married Susanna, daughter of Job Sayre, and their children were: Phebe, Jane, Hezekiah, Stephen and Charles. The father of this family died in 1785.

Charles Howell was born November 20, 1752, at Blaggs Clove. He assisted in the building of Fort Putnam, at West Point, as a member of the independent corps under Gen. George Clinton, and was also stationed with his corps on guard after the burning of Kingston. In 1785 he married a daughter of Major Strong, and the same year settled upon 150 acres of land, which is the Howell homestead in Blooming Grove. By this marriage there were two children: Selah and Clarissa. For his second wife, Charles Howell was married, in 1802, to Elizabeth Board, who was born in New Jersey. They

had three children: Charles, born September 7, 1803; Edmund S., born September 5, 1804; Joseph H. (who was Mrs. La Tourette's father), born December 3, 1805, died December 13, 1878; he married Miss Mary Whigam, a native of Orange county, whose father, William Whigam, was born in Ireland. Six children were born of this union, all of whom, except our subject's wife, live in Orange county: Susan B., the wife of John McCartney, a farmer; William W., a farmer; Mary A., Mrs. La Tourette; Henrietta, Josephine, and Andrew C., the last three living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. La Tourette have but one child living, Gertrude, born July 4, 1874, who was educated in Wallkill, and at the Misses Mackie's School for Girls at Newburg, N. Y., graduating in June, 1894; Phoebe, born September 27, 1876, died August 27, 1877; William H., Jr., born March 1, 1878, died May 10, 1878. Mr. La Tourette is one of Wallkill's most enterprising business men, his store and mill both being well established enterprises with an extensive trade. He owns a fine residence, and is a foremost supporter of any measure for public improvement. He was formerly a Republican, but is now a Prohibitionist. In his gifted wife he finds a ready sympathizer in his views upon needed reforms, and especially on the Temperance question. She is a leading member of the W. C. T. U. The family are members of the Reformed Church.

JAMES F. BROWER was born in Milton, Ulster county, October 28, 1833, and was the son of David and Eliza (Lewis) Brower. In 1860 he began business in Kingston as a wholesale and retail grocer, the firm name being J. F. Brower & Co., which partnership was continued until 1877, when Mr. Brower retired from business. He was married October 2, 1874, to Miss Mary Ida Houghtaling, a daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Chambers) Houghtaling. He was a director in the Kingston National Bank from 1877 until his death, which occurred December 26, 1892. He and his wife had no

children, but they adopted a favorite niece of Mrs. Brower, who was her namesake.

The Houghtaling family is one of the oldest in Ulster county. The great-great-grandfather of Mrs. Brower came from Holland with his brother Henry and settled in Kingston in 1661. Her great-grandfather, Tunis Houghtaling, was born on the place where the West Shore railroad depot now stands, and was the old homestead; her grandfather, Edward B. Houghtaling, was also born there, and his children; he was in the employ of the D. & H. Canal Company. Edward was twice married, his first wife being Miss Anna Akerly. Three children were born to this couple: Nathaniel A., deceased; William Elting, also deceased; and Chauncey, who now resides in Wiltwyck. This wife died when the youngest child was but two weeks old. His second wife was Miss Helen Vankeuren, and they spent their lives in Kingston where he was widely known. Mr. Houghtaling, Sr., died May 29, 1876. Nathaniel grew up in Kingston, received his education in the common schools, under the tutorage of William Dederick, and learned the blacksmith trade, which he followed during his life. Politically he was a Republican, and was a member of the board of village trustees of Kingston. He was married July 3, 1846, to Miss Elizabeth Chambers, who was a daughter of Henry P. Chambers and Mary (Hasbrouck) Chambers, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere. To them five children were born, namely: Edward, who died February 10, 1877, aged twenty-nine years; M. Ida, our subject's wife; Delia, wife of George E. Lyons, of New York City; Ira, living in New York; Ella, who married George D. T. Rouse, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Nathaniel died August 20, 1864, when but forty years old. His wife still survives him, and lives in Kingston. Mr. Houghtaling was a man of public spirit, always working with arduous zeal for the advancement of those objects which tend to benefit the human family, as was evinced by his many acts during his official connection with the board of directors of the village. The following resolutions were unanimously passed at a special meeting of the board of direct-

ors of the Kingston National Bank, held at the rooms of the bank December 28, 1892, called for the purpose of expressing the sense of bereavement and loss felt by the surviving members of the board by reason of the death of Mr. Brower, who had been for so many years connected with the direction of the bank:

Resolved, That the sudden death of Director Brower, making the third death within the year that has occurred among the members of our board, forcibly reminds us of the uncertainty of life, and this remarkable fatality fills us with peculiar sorrow.

Resolved, That the large business experience and extended personal acquaintance of Director Brower, coupled with his conservative policy, and friendly disposition, rendered him a safe and pleasant counsellor, and as he always earnestly sought to promote the interest of the bank, his advice could at all times be acted upon with confidence.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the public press of this city for publication, and that a copy be forwarded to the widow of the deceased.

Resolved, That the surviving directors attend the funeral of our deceased member in a body.

REV. JOHN LONG McNAIR, the well-known pastor of the Reformed Church at Rochester, Ulster county, was born at Churchville, Penn., where his ancestors have been for four generations honored and influential citizens.

John McNair, our subject's great-great-grandfather, came from Scotland at an early date and settled near Churchville. His son Samuel had a son John, our subject's grandfather, who took a leading part in the political work of his time, and was a member of the State Legislature. By occupation he was a farmer and miller, and his son Samuel, our subject's father, followed the same lines of business. Samuel McNair, and his wife, Ann (Long) McNair, had eight children, of whom six are still living.

John L. McNair, our subject, spent his boyhood at the old homestead at Churchville, and attended the schools for some years. He prepared for college at Erasmus Hall, at Flatbush, L. I. and then entered Rutgers College, New Brunswick, where he graduated from the Literary Department in 1850, and from the Theological Seminary in 1853. His first pastorate was at Oyster Bay, L. I., where he remained but a short