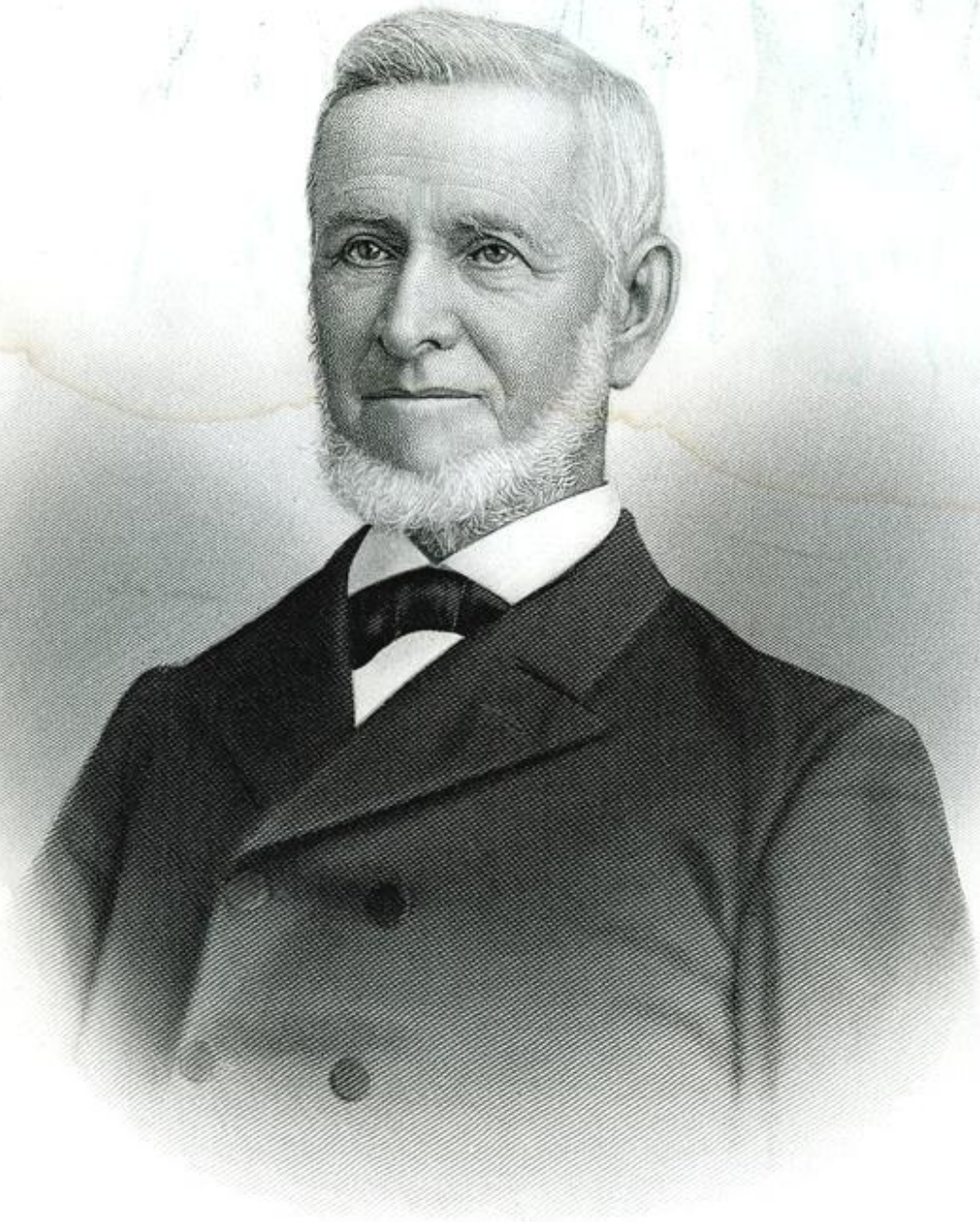


Theron G. Neomans.



Eng. by C. R. Demarest, N.Y.

J. G. Yeoman

Leaflets from Landmarks

OF

WAYNE COUNTY, N. Y.



THERON G. YEOMANS was born in Greene County, New York, January thirty-first, eighteen hundred and fifteen.

His father, Gilbert Yeomans, was born in Dutchess County, New York, November thirtieth, seventeen hundred and seventy-five.

His grandfather, Eliab Yeomans, was born in Dutchess County, New York, in seventeen hundred and thirty-five.

THE two latter moved to Greene County, New York, in seventeen hundred and seventy-eight. Eliab Yeomans, the grandfather, was a noted land surveyor of that early period, and died at the age of ninety-three years.

The mother of our subject was Sarah Bullock, daughter of Asa Bullock. His parents were married October fourteenth, eighteen hundred and two, and had born to them ten children, Theron G. being the only survivor, aged eighty years. He was accustomed to farm life till fifteen years of age, when he came to Walworth to assist an elder brother in mercantile business for six years. At the age of twenty-one years he succeeded his brother in the same business—from eighteen hundred and thirty-six to eighteen hundred and forty-five.

HE was married to Lydia A. Stearns, daughter of Royal Stearns, of Ontario County, September twenty-seventh, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven. They have three children living: Lucien T.; Elon L.; and Francis C.; the two former of the firm of T. G. Yeomans & Sons; and the latter, Francis C., a resident of the State of Washington.

They lost one son, Vaniah G., aged fifteen months; and one daughter, Ellen L., aged seven years.

Mr. Yeomans engaged in the nursery business in eighteen hundred and forty, and continued it on an extensive scale individually, about thirty years; and thereafter in the name of T. G. Yeomans & Sons about twenty years.

FROM about eighteen hundred and fifty to eighteen hundred and seventy, he planted out orchards to the extent of one hundred and fifty acres, most of which are now in bearing, producing a fair revenue to the firm.

Their fine farm is noted for its large orchards well cared for, and for many years celebrated for its large production of choice fruit.

A very important feature of this farm is the thorough system of drainage adopted many years ago, and carried on to the extent of having laid over sixty miles of tile drains, their noted Pear orchard having a tile drain passing within five feet of every tree.

THE New York State Agricultural Society in eighteen hundred and fifty-two, awarded to Mr. Yeomans a silver cup valued at twenty-five dollars as a prize for his successful experiments in drainage.

In eighteen hundred and fifty-one he imported from France about three thousand dwarf pear trees for an orchard, which, at that time was a new departure in the fruit business, of which most people predicted failure, though it proved a gratifying success, and was the most decisive innovation of the period in pear culture ; and is, at the present time, eighteen hundred and ninety-four, vigorous and productive

L. H. BAILEY, Professor of Horticulture in Cornell University, while visiting it in the season of fruiting in eighteen hundred and ninety-four, says "it is an inspiration to me, and is a historical orchard;" many of the trees are nine to twelve inches in diameter, and only about eight to ten feet high.

In eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, Mr. Yeomans visited Holland, and brought thence that fine strain of Holstein Friesian cattle (33 animals), the nucleus of the herd of T. G. Yeomans & Sons, which has become famous throughout the country; and the progeny of which have enriched the stock of countless farms.

ONE of the largest breeders and best judges of this breed of cattle pronounced this the most remarkable importation ever made.

It was this firm, with this herd, who first brought out conspicuously, by actual tests, the surprising qualities of this breed for butter production, which have since been abundantly confirmed and demonstrated by their winning the chief prizes at most of the great public contests of the breeds in this country; and by the production of more butter from one cow, in a single year, than was ever produced by any other cow of any breed, viz., eleven hundred fifty-three pounds fifteen ounces.

ON the organization of the "*Holstein Friesian Association of America*," Mr. Yeomans was chosen its first president, and some member of their firm has at all times been a member of its Official Board.

Mr. Yeomans has not only visited several European countries, but has seen much of America, having twice, with Mrs. Yeomans, visited the Pacific coast, spending three months in California, and later visited Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

His several other excursions include New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and all the States of the American Union except Texas.

BETWEEN eighteen hundred and thirty-six and eighteen hundred and forty-five he held, part of the time, the offices of Town Clerk and Postmaster; and subsequently Justice of the Peace for about sixteen years: previous to holding the latter office, litigation was quite common, though, by his method of administration it was so checked that only five or six suits were contested in his part of the town during the whole period of his official service.

HE was supervisor of Walworth in eighteen hundred and forty-nine and eighteen hundred and fifty; and is understood to be the only person living, who was supervisor in Wayne County either of those years. The following year, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, he was elected Member of Assembly, serving two years in succession. He can learn of but two others, now living, who were members of that honorable body in eighteen hundred and fifty-one, viz.: Hon. Wm. H. Feller, then of Dutchess County, and now of Minnesota; and Hon. Hamilton Harris, of Albany; and learns of no other one living who was a member in eighteen hundred and fifty-two.

HE has voted at fifty nine consecutive annual elections; and in the good old times from eighteen hundred and thirty-six to eighteen hundred and forty-six, when elections were held three days, at different places in each town, he was in the habit of attending all three days at the polls.

His first vote was cast for General Wm. Henry Harrison in eighteen hundred and thirty-six, and he had the pleasure of helping to elect him in eighteen hundred and forty; it is needless to say that he was among the enthusiastic supporters of the old General's grandson in eighteen hundred and eighty-eight.

HE was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in eighteen hundred and eighty-four, which nominated James G. Blaine for President.

Mr. Yeomans' eldest son, L. T. Yeomans, was member of Assembly from Wayne County in eighteen hundred and seventy-two and eighteen hundred and seventy-three; his youngest son, Francis C., was two years Member of Assembly in the State of Washington.

WHEN the rebellion broke out, in eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and President Lincoln called for seventy-five thousand volunteer soldiers; Mr. Yeomans offered to pay each man who enlisted from Walworth, three dollars per month extra pay, and paid them through their Colonel, Joseph W. Corning, of the Thirty-third Regiment, United States Volunteers. Under a subsequent call for "three hundred thousand more," he went to New York city and procured enlisted men to fill the quota for Walworth (seventeen or eighteen men).

ABOUT eighteen hundred and forty Mr. Yeomans offered a liberal price for planting shade trees on the streets and public grounds of the village of Walworth, and an extra prize of twenty-five dollars to the person who would plant the greatest number within three-quarters of a mile of the village.

The result was the planting of many hundreds, which have become, in later years, the ornament and pride of the place.

THE village of Walworth has abundance of nice flagstone and cement walks, a large portion of which were provided by Mr. Yeomans, including those about the hotel and churches. He took an active part in organizing the Walworth Academy, more than fifty years ago, and has been one of its trustees from the first, and the largest contributor to its finances.

The town of Walworth is noted for its general neatness and orderly character, which may be attributed in some degree to the fact, that no license to sell intoxicating drinks has been granted there for about sixty years, and it was the first town in the State to refuse such license.

THE public are accommodated with a beautiful and commodious hotel "The Pacific," built and owned by Mr. Yeomans; and since its construction in eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, has been nicely kept on strictly temperance principles, an honor to the town. It is unnecessary to say that Mr. Yeomans has been a prime factor in securing and maintaining a public sentiment which favors this desirable condition of things, so beneficial to the community.

It is only natural that a man of his ability, experience and usefulness, should be a great power, politically and otherwise, in the town and county where he has resided for so many years, and where the whole of a busy manhood has been passed.

Nevertheless, it is rarely the case that for so many years in succession, the people of any community, trust their affairs to so large an extent, to one man.

MR. YEOMANS may well feel proud of the fact, that for so many years his voice and influence have been so decisive in the selection of candidates for office, and the choice of delegates to the various gatherings of the Republican party, as well as to the many public interests of the community.

It shows the confidence with which he has been able to inspire two or even three generations of his fellow townsmen; and is a most fitting testimonial to the worth and sterling integrity of the man.

The portrait of Mr. Yeomans published herein is copied from a photograph taken when he was 80 years of age, and the photograph of Mrs. Yeomans was taken at the age of 65.



A Tribute

TO THE

MEMORY OF MY BELOVED WIFE.



TO my immediate family and friends, I give the following memorial, relating chiefly, to the last illness and decease of my beloved wife, Lydia A. Yeomans. And briefly, though very imperfectly, an idea of my impressions resulting from my great bereavement.

While she had been very feeble for several weeks previous, and we could hardly anticipate her recovery, we were not expecting her departure just then. She suffered but little pain during her illness, except the weary tired feeling, probably resulting from a lack of usual exercise.

SHE at times conversed with me about her anticipated approaching end, as likely to come very soon; and had several months previously provided for herself her burial garments, and given particular directions as to her wishes at her funeral.

She retained her consciousness, as long as her vitality could sustain it, and ceased to breathe at twelve o'clock noon on one of the most beautiful days of Spring, Easter Sunday, April 15th, 1900. Her funeral was attended at our home, at two o'clock P. M. on Wednesday the 18th, and burial was at Palmyra.

When prepared for burial, her countenance had resumed its most lovely appearance as though free from trouble and care, and in one of her happiest moods of earlier years; an expression especially admired by relatives and friends, and never to be forgotten by those who loved her most.

SHE had many times in past years expressed the wish that she might not die during rough and inclement weather; and her departure on such a lovely Easter day, seems to accord with such a wish.

We had together many times expressed the idea, that it would be a fortunate circumstance, if in our advanced years, we should both depart at or about the same time, so that neither of us would be left to finish life's journey alone, for any considerable length of time. It is quite evident that in this respect our ideas will be realized.

We had both of us during our later years, become aware, that we were living *more and more* for each other, that our chief interest and cares, were for each other, and to such extent, as to stimulate us to the greatest endurance and healthful activities.

SUCH influence no longer exists. She has passed to her happy future, freed from anxiety and sorrow, where I hope and trust I may join her in the near future.

Neither pen or tongue can tell how much I feel her loss; I have lost father, mother, sisters and brothers, and children of tender age, and all have brought sorrow and sadness, and been deeply mourned; but the loss of my beloved wife is more to me than all beside.

Her loved companionship for sixty-three years, during which, every tie that bound us in happy union had been strengthened, every succeeding year had united us more closely in love, sympathy and affection, until our lives seemed to be almost inseparable.

NO one differently situated can realize how much we had become dependent on each other for our enjoyments, our comforts, and the necessaries of our daily life ; scarcely an hour passes when I do not seem to wish to impart to her something agreeable and interesting, or go to her for information and advice ; to her I could communicate in confidence, as to no other person, and her counsel was always worthy of the most careful consideration.

Every thing about our home is a reminder of the part she had taken in making it a happy one, for family and friends. A look at her garden reminds me of how much she enjoyed its culture, and delighted in its beauties ; on the death of a friend or neighbor, how quickly she would think of what floral offering she could furnish to comfort the afflicted.

SINCE her decease, her presence seems constantly near me, lovingly watching over me; and a retrospect of the past, shows me more impressively than ever before, how much of the pleasure and prosperity of my life, has been due to her loving care and companionship.

Sincerely,

THERON G. YEOMANS.

WALWORTH, NEW YORK.
October 15, 1900.