

*Deacon William Gay* was for fully twenty-five years a deacon in the church, and for all his active life was one of Farmington's most capable business men. He was president of the savings bank and treasurer of the town through the trying years of the war. He died February 27, 1889, at the age of 84.

*Gen. George Cowles*, was the son of Gen. Solomon Cowles, a colonial officer. The house with pillars, now the residence of James L. Cowles, was built for George by his father, Solomon. For a long time a sign was upon the front of his store then standing where the D. R. Hawley house now is. The sign read: George Cowles, drugs and medicines. The store continued a great many years under his management. Farmington then contained very many military men of high rank in office. It was Col. George Cowles then, afterward a Brigadier, then Major General, the highest office in the militia of the State. The General was greatly respected by his fellow citizens and justly, as indeed, he was a courteous gentleman of the olden time and a very capable military officer. His death occurred January 7, 1860, aged 80 years.

*Augustus Ward* was born December 4, 1811, and died April 6, 1883, son of Comfort and Plumea Ward. He was a merchant in New Britain in its earliest days. Marrying a daughter of Mr. Seth Cowles in 1840, he removed to this village and built a new house on the site of the old Cowles mansion. He was a farmer, but had much to do with the Farmington Savings Bank after its organization in 1851, being one of its most able and efficient directors.

*Deacon Edward Lucas Hart*, nephew of Deacon Simeon, was born in East Haven, December 31, 1813, and died in this town May 15, 1876. He graduated at Yale College in 1836, and after teaching in New Haven and Berlin became associate principal in his uncle's school in this village. He was a successful and inspiring teacher, much beloved by all who were favored by his friendship. He was for many years a director in the Farmington Savings Bank.

*Winthrop Wadsworth* was born in 1812 and was for twenty-seven years first selectman of the Town of Farmington. This is the longest term which has ever been served by any man in the State of Connecticut. He also represented Farmington for six years in the legislature. He died in 1891.

*Dr. Chauncey Brozen* was born in Canterbury, Conn. He went to Brown University for one year and then to Union College, whence he was graduated with honor. He was a student of

Greek, reading the Greek Testament with great pleasure during the remainder of his life. From the medical school of Bowdoin he returned to Canterbury. In the last year and a half of the Civil War he was physician and surgeon in one of the hospitals of Washington. He came to Farmington about 1835 and in 1837 married Julia M. Strong. He was a strenuous believer in abstinence from alcoholic drink and also in anti-slavery when both beliefs were unpopular. He died in 1878.

*Leonard Winship*, a cabinetmaker in Farmington for forty-four years, was born in Hartford in 1793 and died in 1872. All the mahogany work of the Congregational Church was done by him. While he was working there a man from Macon, Ga., so much admired the railing and pulpit work that he ordered a similar set for a church in Macon. This order was filled and the work done by Timothy Porter of Farmington. There are many houses in town possessing pieces of furniture made by Mr. Winship of which they are justly proud. The mahogany doors in the A. D. Vorce house were made by him.

*Hon. John Hooker* was born April 19, 1816. His early life was spent in Farmington. While residing in his native town he was ever forward in all enterprises calculated to promote the welfare of society, and the best interest of his fellow men. He died February, 1901.

*Samuel Deming* in his time was one of the staunch citizens of this favored town. His occupation was farming as he had a large landed estate. The building now a postoffice was built by him, and for a period of time he engaged in trade with H. L. Bidwell, the firm being Bidwell & Deming. The building was afterward occupied as a tenement. Mr. Deming was an officer on the staff of Gen. George Cowles (a brother-in-law). He took a lively interest in the affairs of the Mendi Africans, whose school room was the upper portion of his store building. Mr. Deming served at times as magistrate and was a fearless defender of what he considered right. His age at the time of his death was 73 years, which occurred the 28th of April, 1871.

*Austin F. Williams* was born in East Hartford in 1805. Coming to Farmington as a young man he engaged as clerk in the drug store of Gen. George Cowles and was afterward a partner, the firm being Cowles & Williams. When the stone store was completed Williams & Mygatt (Henry Mygatt) occupied it as a general store, stocked with dry goods, groceries and various goods sold in country stores. In after

years Mr. Williams started a stone and lumber yard in Plainville. The raging canal was then in operation and canal boats James Hillhouse, No. 1, and Henry Farnam carried passengers, wood and produce to New Haven, loading with groceries and pine lumber on return trips. The stone and lumber yard was on the margin of the canal basin where, near by, was the Timothy Steele Tavern. Mr. Williams was leader of the church choir in Farmington for many years. In 1814 he was very efficient in caring for the Mendi Africans. The business at the stone store was transferred to Cowles & Rowe in 1836, Mr. Williams having organized a company (Williams, Camp & Abbe) and opened a wholesale store for the sale of dry goods in New York city, so several of our former residents left the quiet country place for the activities and bustle of the city. Mr. Williams was in infirm health for a considerable period and died December 18, 1885, at the age of 80 years.

*John S. Rice* was born April 5, 1816, and died May 10, 1885. He had been judge of probate in New Haven and was in the State Legislature before coming to Farmington. None of us can forget Judge Rice, with his long white hair and beard. Walking among the shadows of the large trees near his house, with cloak and cane, one was reminded of the stories of an elderly baron on his estates. I once had some papers drawn up by the Judge about a transfer of property. When I wished to pay, he replied in his large manner, "I am not practicing law now, but I am always happy to be of any assistance to my Farmington friends." He was always active in affairs of the town.

*Hon. Chauncey Rowe*, the subject of this sketch, was born in Farmington, March 17, 1815. Concerning his boyhood days there is little known, but that he attended the common school of the



town and later the "Academy" or Simeon Hart's School must be surmised, as all who knew him are willing to accord him a high place in erudition as