

JOSEPH LANE BARBOUR

BARBOUR, JOSEPH LANE, one of the ablest lawyers in Connecticut and a well-known public speaker and politician of Hartford, was born in Barkhamstead, Litchfield County, Connecticut, December 18th, 1846, the son of Heman Humphrey and Frances Elizabeth (Merrill) Barbour. His father was a lawyer who was at one time judge of probate for the district of Hartford and was also State senator in Indiana. Heman Barbour was an honest, energetic, and industrious man, and one of marked intellectual ability as well.

Among the earliest ancestors of the family were: Peter Brown, who came from England to Windsor, Connecticut, in 1635, Gov. John Webster, who came from England to Hartford, in 1636, Elder William Goodwin, one of the Rev. Thomas Hooker's flock, and Gov. William Leete, who came from England and settled in Guilford, Connecticut, in 1643, and afterwards became Deputy Governor of New Haven Colony. Thomas Dudley, another ancestor who came from England in 1630, was Deputy Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony for thirteen years and governor of that colony for four years. Still other ancestors, Capt. Thomas Bull and Lieutenant Samuel Humphrey, served in the early Indian Wars, and Capt. John Brown served in the Revolutionary War and remained in the service until he died in 1876.

Most of Joseph L. Barbour's early days were spent in the city and he was educated at the Hartford Public High School and Williston Seminary. His first work was school teaching and consisted of a year's experience in Bloomfield, Connecticut, and another year at Meriden, Connecticut. Then in 1867, he became interested in journalism and worked as a reporter for the *Hartford Post* until 1874. He has since devoted himself to the study and practice of law in Hartford.

In 1872, 1873, and 1874 Mr. Barbour was clerk of the Hartford Common Council, from 1876 to 1883 he was prosecuting attorney of

the city of Hartford, from 1877 to 1878 he was clerk of the Connecticut House of Representatives, in 1879 he was clerk of the State Senate, and in 1897 he was Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives. He has always been a faithful and active Republican and has served his party effectively as a campaign orator. Nor is this the extent of his public services, for he uses his oratorical powers on many public occasions and is a favorite Memorial Day orator. From 1866 to 1871 he was a member of the Connecticut National Guard and served with credit.

In religious views Mr. Barbour unites with the Congregational Church. He is a member of the Washington Commandery, Knights Templar, and of other fraternal orders. His favorite amusements are reading, traveling, and the theatre. His family consists of a wife and three children, though five have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Barbour. Mrs. Barbour, whose maiden name was Anne J. Woodhouse, is a daughter of the late Oliver Woodhouse. The living children are Miss Frances Barbour of Hartford; Robert W. Barbour of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Florence A., now Mrs. Arthur Van DeWater of New York City.

Joseph L. Barbour is well known throughout the State as a successful lawyer, and the history of his practice is a record of many distinguished cases won by his keenness, and the history of his life as a public man is a record of many honors won by his loyalty, capacity for leadership, and executive ability.