

1856.

Charles B. Doolittle (Anson), res. '01 at Greeley, Ia. He then had 2 s. and 2 daus. living. His s. H. O. says his father was only one of his gr. father's ch. who left any ch. CH.:

3937. i. Fred A. res. '01 at Delhi, Ia. He was a candidate for nom. for sheriff of Delaware Co., Ia. at the Repub. primary election of June 2, 1908.

3938. ii. Josephine m. C. E. Harris, res. '01 Hailey, Idaho.

3939. iii. Sipa, res. '01 Greeley, Ia.

3940. iv. Harley O., res. '02 at 420 Cherokee Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

1857.

Ambrose E. Doolittle (Benj. Doud), b. Jan. 19, 1803, in Cheshire, Ct.; m. Betsey Ann Benham. She was b. in New Hartford, Ct. Apr. 22, 1804; d. Nov. 1, 1898, a. 94. They res. in the "Senior House" where Horton Hall now stands on Main St. in C., his parental home. He d. May 4, 1879, a. 76 at C., where both are buried with dau Sarah in the Episcopal Field. CH.:

3941. i. Sarah C. b. May 5, 1832; d. Dec. 11, 1884. unm.

3942. ii. Hon. Tilton Edwin Doolittle was b. July 31, 1825 at Riverton, Ct. [where his mother was on a short visit, and he was brought home to Cheshire on a pillow]. He grew up at C., where he attended the Protestant Episcopal Academy; later, 1840, entered Trinity College, Hartford, grad. A. B. 1844; afterwards rec'd A. M. degree. He took course at Yale Law School, grad. 1846; admit. to bar at Middletown sm. yr. He practiced law 1846-50 in Cheshire; from 1850 to 58 at Meriden and thereafter in New Haven, where he res. till his death, Mar. 21, 1896. In spg. of 1859 Mr. Doolittle was appt. U. S. Dist. Att'y for the Dist. of Ct. by President Jas. Buchanan, but relinquished the office the next yr. In 1866, 1867 and 1870 his fellow citizens, appreciating his quality, made him a representative from New Haven in the Legislature. On being again elected in 1874, he was chosen Speaker of the House.

In 1861 Mr. D. formed a copartnership in the law with Judge Sam'l L. Bronson, which lasted until 1870. The next 4 yrs. of individualized practice was followed in 1874 by an assoc'n with Judge Henry Stoddard. In 1876 Mr. Wm. L. Bennett was added to the firm. Mr. Doolittle was appt. States Att'y for New Haven Co. 1879. He succeeded O. H. Platt. "The appt. was most heartily and generally commended. Since that time Mr. Doolittle has filled a large place in the legal affairs of his State, and always with fidelity and honor. He has impressed himself upon the courts, the lawyers, the criminals and the community in a powerful and unusual way." He resigned Jan. 1, 1896. He m. Nov. 1, 1848, Mary Kirtland Cook b. Nov. 4, 1829, dau. of John and Mary (Munson) C. of Cook Hill, Wallingford Ct., and gt. gr. dau. of Thaddeus Cook, the Revol. patriot. She rec'd her education in her native town and New Haven.

As a lawyer Tilton E. Doolittle stood in the first rank and his services were in great demand. When he entered the Ct. Bar it was far famed for its splendid galaxy of great lawyers—the eminent Ingersoll bros., Ralph and Chas., the most able Roger S. Baldwin, the learned Dennis Kimberly, the formidable Alfred Blackman and others. In that school he began his professional life under the influences which a high-minded

The Doolittle Family in America, 1856



HON. TILTON EDWIN DOOLITTLE. (3942)

and honorable set of great men and great lawyers would necessarily exert upon him. He possessed by nature instincts, tastes and moral character fitted to feel these influences and to absorb and assimilate all that was valuable in them.

Mr. D. cared little for public life though he served the people well repeatedly at the mandate of his fellow citizens. For 25 yrs. he filled successively numerous places of high public honor and trust. But the court room was his place; he was a lawyer down to the quick; he delighted in the contest, the stress and strain and struggle of forensic life. He was there the hero of many battles; he enjoyed victory; always believing he was on the right side, but when defeated he met it as a manly man.

His inborn forcefulness of character he greatly developed and strengthened. With this great natural force he had persistency, frankness and shrewdness. In his practice his individuality was conspicuous, even his voice was characteristic of him. His methods of trial—his vigor of attack—his skill of defense—his promptness to use every weapon of the thoroughly equipped lawyer, which he was—were all in his own special manner and impressed upon every one his strong personality. Ex-Gov. C. R. Ingersoll of Ct. said of him:

"His personality was so individual that the youngest lawyer at this Bar knew him as he actually was. He wore no mask. He never posed for what he was not. He never posed, indeed, for anything that he was. In all his ways,—in all his moods,—under all circumstances, he was simply himself—he was Doolittle. I never knew a man more content to let the world put its own valuation upon his worth. He had a most kindly nature, and it was quick to respond to any appeal to his sympathy or friendship. And in his administration of that most responsible and important office which he has held with such marked ability for so many yrs.—the State Attorneyship for this County—he is to be remembered, not more for the zeal and vigor with which he has prosecuted crime in the courts, than for the wisdom and prudence and humanity and integrity with which he has discharged its great responsibilities outside the courtroom."

A New Haven editorial on his resigning this office at age of 70 closes with:

"But while he [T. E. D.] was relentless in the pursuit and punishment of the dangerous foes of society, he did not regard himself solely as an avenger of the law. Under his usually severe and sometimes awe-inspiring manner he concealed great considerateness and true kindness of heart. Many a criminal who was more weak and unfortunate than vicious has been treated with judicious leniency by him; and he has given many a man and many a woman a chance to do better when he thought he could do so without failing in his duty to society. He has inspired gratitude in many hearts as well as fear, and in the quiet of his retirement we have no doubt that he will take as much real satisfaction in the kind and helpful acts he has been able and willing to do as in the good he has done by fearlessly and successfully upholding the law.

"He leaves his important office full of years and honors. He has the respect and the admiration of the people whom he has served so long and so well, and for whose peace and safety he has fought so valiantly and persistently. His ability and his worth are known and appreciated by the members of his profession throughout Conn. and in other States. He has lived longer, done more and done it better than most men do. He has well earned the rest he is going to take and all who know him and his work will heartily wish that his remaining days may be pleasant and peaceful."

By deeds of honor and integrity Mr. Doolittle fought his way into universal confidence and to a leading place in the Bar of New England. For 50 yrs. he took a prominent part in his State and was a leader among his fellows. Judge Henry Stoddard at the memorial service of the New Haven Co. Bar said in part:

"I knew Mr. Doolittle somewhat intimately after I came to the Bar and was his associate in business for several years. In consultation at the office his knowledge of law was intuitive, grounded of course upon a thorough study and appreciation of its fundamental principles, and even in the most intricate causes arising but seldom in our practice, his unerring sagacity invariably went straight to the marrow of the controversy. In the trial of his causes he was both sagacious and bold in attack, and in defense prudent and wary, a most dangerous antagonist and a most powerful ally. In his examination of witnesses, I may say that he was without a peer, and especially so in his cross-examinations. . . While he always brought the highest degree of skill and a very large amount of labor to the trial of all his causes, yet there was one class of cases, or rather of clients that called forth from Mr. Doolittle a more fervent application of all his powers of body and mind than any other. I refer to those cases where the weak and the unfortunate applied to him for aid. In such cases he was unsparing of time and labor, and that without the hope of any reward other than the consciousness of having done his full duty by a client that could not otherwise repay him.

"As a friend Mr. Doolittle was to the last degree open hearted and generous, and I know that I express the common sentiment of those about me, who knew him so well, when I say that by this generation of lawyers their departed friend and associate will always be held in the most tender and grateful remembrance."

He had been so many yrs. a living actual and vigorous presence in the Superior Court room that it seemed to his colleagues he must still live as the courts live which he was so thoroughly identified with.

"Mr. Doolittle enjoyed the reputation of possessing the esteem of the judges of Conn., and the respect of the criminals as have few state atty's in the state's history. The successive years of his manly, straightforward statement of fact before them had led the judiciary to rely more and more on the sterling integrity of the prosecuting atty' and they believed him above trickery for purposes of deception of judges or for simply securing a conviction.

"The law breakers had learned to respect him, and to almost throw themselves on his mercy, trusting to his judgment of human nature and his almost judicial clemency to make a fair, unvarnished resumé of their case and to recommend a reasonable sentence which, they felt assured would be adopted by the court.

"In both number and importance the cases conducted by Mr. Doolittle rank collectively, ahead of perhaps any of those handled by any previous incumbent of the position. Among the leading trials prosecuted by him were: The Jennie Cramer, the Coffe, the Russi, the Shields, the Keefe, the Jake Smith, the Beaudet, the Chip Smith and the Whipper, the Drs. Lee and Whitten murder cases, the receivership suit of Bard vs. Banigan and the Welton will case."—Newspaper clipping.

He had a wonderful knowledge of human nature and a keen perception of human motives. He inspired criminals with terror and often their defenders also. Wm. C. Case once remarked that he would as soon ask a witness "to submit to being run over by a square harrow as to endure a hatcheling from Brother Doolittle."

"No one could ever accuse Tilton E. Doolittle of double dealing. He was blunt and honest. He did not mince his words, but however sharp his language, there was always a very large, soft spot in his very big heart. . . Many a young man and old one, too, is living an honest life today because Tilton E. Doolittle knew when to temper justice with mercy. . . he has done as much to reform fallen men and women as any public official or private citizen of Conn. during the past quarter of a century. Scores and scores of men and women throughout this county and this state could tell of acts of kindness performed by the state's atty' to whom they had gone to talk over troubles, almost crushing in their severity.

"They could tell of the gruff greeting extended by the state's att'y when they entered his office and they would tell of the tender words spoken by that official before the interview was ended.

"We believe that no man in Conn. had more friends among all classes of people than Mr. Doolittle. He had enemies and no good man has ever been without them, but the world will never know of one-tenth part of the good deeds he performed nor the acts of kindness and tenderness which were never told by him and which he preferred that his fellowmen should have no knowledge of.

"New Haven has lost one of its best citizens, the New Haven Co. bar has lost one of its brightest lights. The legal profession contains few men so learned in the law, so well informed concerning all the principles of evidence, so capable in the presentation of cases and in the giving of advice."—New Haven editorial.

Ex-Gov. H. B. Harrison of Ct. as one of the 6 or 8 in N. H. county who entered the Bar with T. E. D. and survived him, said that as they survey Mr. D.'s half century of professional life "they see in that career not one act done by him unworthy of a high-minded and honorable and generous man. They part with him in sorrow; and so long as they shall live, they will remember him with profound respect and sincere affection."

On Mar. 23, 1896, a special meeting of the Bar of New Haven Co. was held in the Superior Court room to pay a tribute to the memory of Tilton E. Doolittle. It was the largest gathering of lawyers ever known in its history, as no other death that had taken place in that city in yrs. had made such an impression upon the legal fraternity. It was presided over by John W. Alling, Esq., who under the rule of Bar appt. ex-Gov. Ingersoll, ex-Gov. Harrison and Judge Henry Stoddard as a com'te to have charge of the exercises. Their speeches were printed in a pamphlet with the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we, the members of the New Haven County Bar, deeply impressed with the great loss sustained by our profession and the public in the death of Tilton E. Doolittle, do here place upon record this memorial of respect, appreciation and affection for our lamented friend.

Resolved, That we, his associates, mourn the death of this generous hearted and sympathetic friend by which our profession and the public have lost an able, zealous and devoted counsellor and advocate, and the State a conscientious and public-spirited citizen.

Resolved, That this Bar will attend the funeral in a body.

Resolved, That we tender to his family our heart-felt sympathy in their affliction, and that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to them.

Resolved, That the President of this Bar present these resolutions to the Superior Court of this County, and request that the same may be entered of record. CH.:

3943. i. Sarah Mabel Cook; m. Presley Carr Lane of St. Louis, Mo.; res. '08 in New Haven, Ct., at 367 Orange St.

3944. ii. Geo. Tilton, physician, res. '08 in Spokane, Wash., with office in the Rookery Bldg. He m. May Gertrude Hendryx. CH.:

Geo. Hendryx; Andrew Hendryx, twin; Tilton Edwin, twin.

3945. iii. John Ambrose; m. May Maltice of Pueblo; res. '08 at Cook Hill, Wallingford, Ct., and has a dau. Mary Tilton. He is an att'y and was his father's partner.

1860.

Araminta D. Doolittle (Calvin, bro. of Benjamin Doud), b. in Washington Co. N. Y. 1811 [the latest data seem to show that Araminta was a ch. of Calvin, bro. of Benj. Doud (867) as were also Nos. 1858-63 incl.