

In 1839 he was appointed by Gov. Marcy district-attorney of the county of Albany, in which capacity he served until 1841. He was elected to the 33d congress in 1852. On the expiration of his term he resumed practice in Albany, taking into partnership Lyman Tremain; his brother, George, having removed to Milwaukee in the interim. In 1859 he spent a few months in European travel, and upon his return was elected justice of the supreme court. At the close of his first judicial term of eight years Judge Peckham was re-elected, no opposing candidate being named. In 1870, before the expiration of his second term, he was



Rufus William Peckham

Dr. William B. Lacey, rector of St. Peter's Church, Albany, N. Y., to whom he was married 1832, died in 1848. In February, 1862, he was again married to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Israel Foote. He had three sons, Wheeler Hazard, Joseph Henry and Rufus William Peckham.

PECKHAM, Wheeler Hazard, lawyer, was born in Albany, N. Y., Jan. 1, 1833, son of Rufus Wheeler and Isabella A. (Lacey) Peckham. He received his early education at the Albany Academy, and afterwards went to Union College, Schenectady, but left before graduation on account of poor health. He then took up the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in 1856. For two years he practiced in that city with his father and Lyman Tremain. His health not improving, he spent a year in Europe, and on returning to the United States went to St. Paul, where he resided until the latter part of 1862. In February, 1864, he settled in New York city. He became particularly noted for his knowledge on important points of municipal and constitutional law; had an extensive practice in the U. S. supreme court, and achieved a special reputation through his argument on the constitutionality of the practice of taxing greenbacks. In that argument Mr. Peckham was opposed by Charles O'Connor, of New York city, who stated that Mr. Peckham's effort was as able as any he had ever heard. During the excitement following the exposure of the Tweed "ring" in New York, the attorney-general of the state appointed Charles O'Connor special deputy attorney-general, with power to prosecute the men guilty or suspected of the "ring" frauds. Mr. O'Connor immediately requested Mr. Peckham to act with him in the performance of this duty, and for several years the latter gave up almost his whole time to this business. His ability as a lawyer and his force in argument were important factors in the grand result of the exposure, prosecution and flight or imprisonment of the chief criminals. Mr. Peckham was counsel in important litigation against the state of Louisiana by holders of the state bonds, the case, however, being decided adversely to them by the U. S. supreme court. Besides this, he was permanently employed as counsel by the Union Trust Co., New York. In

1884 he was appointed district-attorney for the county of New York, but resigned after holding the office a few weeks. Mr. Peckham resumed his position as a member of the firm of Miller, Peckham & Dixon, in New York, of which he became a member in 1864. He died in New York, Sept. 27, 1905.

PECKHAM, Rufus William, jurist, was born in Albany, N. Y., Nov. 8, 1838, youngest son of Hon. Rufus Wheeler (judge of the court of appeals of New York) and Isabella A. (Lacey) Peckham. He attended school at the Albany Academy and later in Philadelphia. In 1856 he went to Europe for a year, and on returning studied law in the offices of his father and of Lyman Tremain in Albany, in 1857, and was admitted to the bar in 1859. On Jan. 1, 1860, he formed a partnership with his father's partner, Mr. Tremain, which continued up to the time of the death of the latter in 1878. Mr. Peckham was elected district-attorney of Albany county November, 1868, and served three years. It was during his term of office that the famous express robbery occurred on the railroad bridge at Albany, when the express messenger, Halpine, was left for dead in the car. The trial was one of the most exciting that ever took place in Albany county. It was conducted by Dist. Att'y Peckham with indefatigable effort and rare ability, and resulted in a conviction. Mr. Peckham was one of the counsel for the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad Co. in its fight with the Erie Railroad Co., controlled by Jay Gould and James Fisk, Jr. He also represented the attorney-general in many capital trials, and generally with success. Mr. Peckham was one of the representatives of his congressional district in the national convention held at St. Louis in 1876, and was an active supporter of Mr. Tilden for the presidency. He was also a representative in the Cincinnati convention in 1880, when Maj.-Gen. Hancock was nominated. In April, 1881, he was appointed corporation counsel of the city of Albany. From 1883 until 1886 he was justice of the supreme court of New York, when he was elected an associate justice of the court of appeals. In December, 1895, he was appointed associate justice of the U. S. supreme court at Washington, D. C. The degree of LL. D. was conferred upon him by Columbia in 1901. In 1866 he was married to Harriette M., daughter of D. H. Arnold, of New York, and has two sons.

SAWYER, John Talbott, clergyman, was born at Ann Arbor, Mich., Feb. 4, 1843, son of Hon. Franklin and Sarah Mathew (Loring) Sawyer, and a descendant of Thomas Sawyer, one of three brothers who came from Lincolnshire, England, to Massachusetts between 1640 and 1646. The records of the family in England show they bore arms "during the third crusade under Richard Cœur de Lion and Baldwin. His family and hereditary coat of arms were given in 1310 to Hugh Sawyer for distinguished services rendered his sovereign on the field of battle. The family came to England with William the Conqueror in 1066." His great-grandfather, Elisha Sawyer, served in the revolutionary war. His father was born at Cambridge, Mass., 1809; was graduated at Harvard in 1830; was a lawyer, educator and editor; served in the Massachusetts legislature; was the founder and first president of the Young Men's Society of Detroit, Mich.; was state superintendent of education in Michigan (1842-43), and was one of the originators of the University of



John T. Sawyer