

## JOHN HALE TAYLOR, M. D.

JOHN HALE TAYLOR was born in Rome, Oneida county, N. Y., on the 18th of August, 1844. His father was Mortimer H. Taylor, a native of Glastonbury, Conn., and removed early to Oneida county, where he married Mary Brainard; the former died October 9, 1887, aged eighty-one, and the latter died January 13, 1890, aged eighty-two. In 1850 he removed to Orleans county and settled on a farm in the town of Clarendon.

Dr. Taylor received his general education in the Holley Academy and at the Brockport Collegiate Institute. He studied his profession with Drs. Horace Clark and William B. Mann of Brockport, N. Y., and graduated from the Medical University of Buffalo February 24, 1869. Since that time he has been in active practice in the village of Holley, and has attained a large business. To further qualify himself for the responsibilities of his profession Dr. Taylor in 1889 took a post graduate course in medicine at the New York Polyclinic College and Hospital, and at the same time took a private course of instruction in gynecology under Dr. James R. Goffe of New York, and a course in operative surgery under Dr. Robert H. M. Dawbarn of New York.

Dr. Taylor is a member of the Orleans County and the Central New York Medical Societies, and of the New York State Medical Association. He was elected president of the Orleans County Medical Society in 1892, and has held the office of coroner for fifteen years. Dr. Taylor possesses all of the qualifications, both natural and acquired, of the good physician, and his exceptional success is amply deserved.

Dr. Taylor occupies a high position in Free Masonry; is a member of Murray Lodge No. 380, and was master in 1883 and 1884, and secretary of the lodge several years. He is also a member of Orleans Chapter No. 175, Royal Arch Masons, and of Monroe Commandery No. 12, Knights Templar.

Dr. Taylor was married in 1870 to Harriet A. Hartwell, of Medfield, Mass.; they have two sons: John Mortimer and Forrest Emerson Taylor. John Mortimer was born in Holley, December 11, 1871, graduated at the University of Rochester in 1892, and entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York (Medical Department of Columbia) as a student in medicine, October 1, 1894. Forrest Emerson was born in Holley, March 3, 1874.

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HON. ISAAC S. SIGNOR.

ISAAC S. SIGNOR was born at Skaneateles, N. Y. His family were originally from Dutchess county. He attended Elbridge Academy and graduated from Hamilton College in 1870, taking the first Kingsley prize in debate at the end of the senior year. At the end of 1871 he graduated from the law school and the same year commenced practice at Albion, where he remained for two years. He then went to New York city and was in the office of Davies & Work, and still later with Judge Hawes. The firm of Griggs & Signor was then formed and they did business at 237 Broadway for over three years. In 1878 he returned to Albion, and since 1879 the firm of Signor &

Wage has been in existence. Judge Signor was elected district attorney on the Republican ticket and served from 1881 to 1884. He was then elected county judge and was re-elected. He was married December 29, 1879, to Mary Grierson, of Brooklyn, N. Y., daughter of Samuel and Susannah Grierson. They have three children, a son, Charles, and two daughters, Beatrice and Dorothy. Judge Signor spent his boyhood on a farm, and for two years of the time that he was preparing for college worked on his father's farm summers, taught school winters, and attended school fall and spring terms. During this time he went during the summer once or twice a week four miles to recite, and during the winter recited evenings. He commenced preparing for college in 1863, graduating in 1870. During that time he taught four winters and took one year of the law school course with his senior studies. After graduation he taught one year in the Clinton Liberal Institute at Clinton, N. Y., pursuing his legal studies at the same time, and was admitted to practice that year. His father, Eleazer Signor, was born at Elbridge, N. Y., in 1809, and his mother, whose maiden name was Lucy Rogers, was born in Chenango county, N. Y., in 1810. Both died at Skaneateles, N. Y. His grandfather on his father's side was born in Dutchess county and was one of the pioneers of Onondaga county. The Signor family originally came from Holland, the Rogers family from England. The Grierson family are of Scotch and English descent.

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### FRED L. DOWNS.

CONSPICUOUS among the early settlers in the village of Medina, Orleans county, was Simeon Downs, from whom the subject of this sketch is descended on the paternal side. Simeon Downs was born in 1800, and at one time owned a farm on the Ridge, though he was a blacksmith and edge tool maker by trade and followed that business more closely than he did farming. He died in his adopted village, February 9, 1875. His wife was Sophronia Bailey, and they had three children.

The grandfather of Fred L. Downs on the maternal side was Adam Garter, one of the prominent settlers of the county. He first came in 1814 on a prospecting tour, and five years later with his two brothers he came on and took up land about two and a half miles southwest of Medina village, in the town of Shelby. He was a liberally educated man for his time, and a practical surveyor. This gave him considerable prominence in this region, and he held several town offices, laid out a part of the village of Medina and surveyed the Burroughs, the Hedley, and many other tracts of land. He died April 5, 1878, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Darius Fuller, village of Medina.

One of the three children of Simeon Downs was Lester C. Downs, who was born August 17, 1827. During his comparatively short life he worked in his father's tool shop, studied music and became a successful teacher of singing. He married Susan Garter, daughter of Adam Garter, and died at the age of thirty-four years, leaving two children, the subject of this sketch, and Frank R. Downs, now in the insurance business in Medina. After the death of Lester C. Downs his widow married Andrew Weld, a respected farmer of the town of Ridgeway, now also deceased. His widow is still living in Medina at the age of seventy-one years.

Fred L. Downs was born in Medina, August 14, 1855, and began his education in his native place. The death of his father when he was five years old made it necessary for the son to be sent into the country to live with an uncle, Darius Fuller, where he remained ten years. He attended school regularly during that period, when his uncle removed to Medina; he then entered the academy for a course of about three years. At the age of eighteen, having determined to become a lawyer, he entered the office of Stanley E. Filkins in Medina, and three years later, April 10, 1880, was admitted to the bar at Rochester. He opened an office in Medina, alone at the first, but subsequently he had as partner for a short period Morgan L. Brainard, and later for one year, H. B. Dayton.

In his profession Mr. Downs holds an honorable position and enjoys the respect of his professional brethren and the confidence of his other fellow citizens. He has secured a practice that has been gratifying to himself, while his success has pleased his many friends. A Republican in politics he has always shown an intelligent and active interest in the affairs of his party and has worked earnestly for its success. In 1882 he was elected justice of the peace for the town of Ridgeway, and held the office four years from January, 1883. During that period, and in March, 1885, he was elected trustee of the village of Medina, and held the office for three years. In March, 1892, he was elected president of the village, and re-elected in 1893 and 1894. In these positions he has won deserved commendation for his efforts for the general welfare of the community, the inauguration and carrying out of needed improvements, and the careful and prudent use of public funds. He has served as a member of the Republican County Committee several times and given freely of his time to local political work. He aided in organizing the Medina Savings and Loan Association, and has been its attorney from the first. In 1894 Mr. Downs was made a candidate for member of Assembly, but through certain combinations was defeated for the nomination. Mr. Downs combines many of the elements that give a man popularity and strength among his fellow citizens. He is a member of local lodges of Masons and Odd Fellows.

Mr. Downs was married on the 11th day of February, 1890, to Emma A. Emmons, daughter of H. N. Hopkins, of Medina, and they have one daughter.

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### HON. HENRY M. HARD.

MERRITT HARD, son of Sylvanus and Lucy (Fenn) Hard, was born in Arlington, Vt., June 3, 1811. He is of English descent, his great-grandfather coming to America with Captain Kidd. Sylvanus was a soldier at Plattsburg in the war of 1812. Merritt Hard came to Yates in 1835 and settled on the farm he now occupies. He followed school teaching more or less until 1853 and was town superintendent of schools many years. For nearly twenty years he was a justice of the peace and was also a long time merchant in Lyndonville. In 1834 he married Charlotte Canfield, of Vermont, and had three children: Catherine A. (deceased), and Caroline, successively the wives of Martin S. Rice, and Hon. Henry M. His second wife was Laura C. Fenn, of Con-

necticut. Hon. Henry M. Hard was born in Arlington, Vt., January 31, 1842, and was educated in the Yates and Medina Academies. He was long a merchant in Lyndonville with his father, and afterward alone, and was supervisor of Yates in 1877-78-79 and 1880, being chairman of the board the latter year. In the fall of 1881 he was elected to the Assembly for one year and was re-elected in 1882 and served on the Committees of Commerce and Navigation, Internal affairs, Trades and Manufactures, and many others. In February, 1891, he was appointed by President Harrison United States consul at Clifton, Ontario, Canada, which position he held for six years, resigning on account of sickness. He is now president of the Board of Education of the Lyndonville Union Free School. September 1, 1870, he married Kate, daughter of Daniel Clark, and has one son, Edward C., who was born December 1, 1872, who was graduated from the University of Rochester in June, 1894, and is now (November, 1894,) attending the Buffalo Law School.

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#### D. L. JONES.

D. L. JONES was born in the town of Kendall, within one mile of his present residence, on March 23, 1842. He is the youngest of eight children born to David Jones, the second settler of the township, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. Mr. Jones was reared a farmer, and very early in life acquired the rudimentary knowledge so necessary to the successful agriculturist. At the youthful age of fourteen he commenced to work for wages, which he used most judiciously in obtaining an education in the district schools of his native town. For several years he taught school, thus supplementing the limited advantages he was permitted to enjoy in the school room. During the summer months, however, he labored on the farm, at which he continued until 1877, when he engaged in manufacturing. This business engrossed his attention in Bridgeport, Conn., and Erie, Pa., for seven years, but during all this time, as well as ever since his birth, he kept his residence in Kendall.

In 1867 Mr. Jones purchased of James Weed a farm of 100 acres; in 1872 he bought another of the same size of the heirs of his father, David; in 1873 a third of the same area was secured of Robert Todd; and in 1884 he purchased 150 acres of Samuel Kendrick. All these are located in Kendall and are still in his possession. In 1884 he bought of George W. Potter what is known as the Williams farm of 262 acres at East Carlton, on which his eldest son, Charles D., resides. These farms comprise some of the finest and most valuable land in Orleans county, and contain in all 710 acres.

As a life-long resident Mr. Jones has ever been actively interested in all matters pertaining to the advancement of his town. He has been prominently identified with its best interests, serving it two years—in 1889 and 1890—as supervisor. During this period he labored unceasingly to obtain a reduction of the real assessed valuation of not only Kendall, but also the towns of Carlton and Yates. The fact that he succeeded is indisputable evidence of his eminent ability as a parliamentarian. These valuations he reduced as follows: Carlton from \$1,235,207 to \$1,175,466; Yates from \$1,013,244 to