

### MAJOR JONATHAN LADD.

For many years Major Jonathan Ladd, an eminent member of the Middlesex county bar, was a familiar figure upon the streets of Lowell, he and his friend, Jefferson Bancroft, the last to survive those lawyers of the olden times whom we love to style as "of the old school." They both clung to the old style of dress, and right handsome they were in the blue cutaway coat of uniform cloth and brass button, with broad brimmed hat, silver buckled shoes, their courtly manner and dignified demeanor fitting in well with their style of dress. In his law practice Major Ladd held to the strictest code of professional honor, and in his citizenship was intensely patriotic and public-spirited. His military record was an honorable one, and in all things he measured up to the full stature of a man. A family tradition, well founded, asserts that the name Ladd is of French origin, and that it has existed in England from the time of the Norman Conquest, 1066. From LeLade, the original French spelling, its orthography has been subjected to numerous changes, Lad, Lade, and Ladde, until reaching its present form, Ladd.

The first of this name in America was Daniel Ladd, of Wiltshire, England, who took the required oath of allegiance in order to sail on the ship, "Mary and John," Robert Sayres, master, from London, March 24, 1633, for New England. He landed at Nantasket in Boston harbor, but, unlike most of his fellow passengers, did not settle in Dorchester, but went to Ipswich, where in 1637 he was granted six acres of land upon which he built a house which he owned until 1644, when he sold it, having previously, in 1639, moved to Salisbury, Massachusetts. Later he moved to Haverhill, Massachusetts, where he was one of the first settlers, and there he resided until his death, July 27, 1693. His wife, Ann, who came with him from England, died February 9, 1694. Chase, in his "History of Haverhill," says that Daniel Ladd owned and cultivated several farms, and was very prominent among the early settlers. In 1668, he was a selectman, and at the outbreak of King Phillip's War, he was on the committee to establish garrison houses. His son, Nathaniel Ladd, settled in Exeter, New Hampshire, where he married Elizabeth Gilman, daughter of John Gilman, a member of the Provincial Council. From this branch came Isaac Ladd, a farmer of Grafton county, New Hampshire, and one time sheriff of the county. He married Huldah Heath, and later retired from farm life and moved to Lowell, Massachusetts, where both ended their days. They were the parents of Major Jonathan Ladd, to whose memory this review is dedicated.

Major Jonathan Ladd was born in Alexandria, New Hampshire, September 26, 1820, and died in Lowell, Massachusetts, April 9, 1889. His youth was spent at the homestead in Grafton county, and until coming to Lowell in 1834 he was his father's farm assistant. The love of the soil was bred in him through a line of farmer ancestors, and as long as he lived he retained a deep interest in agriculture, while his love for horses was almost a passion. He acquired a good district

school education, upon which later he built his structure of professional learning, nor at any time during his career did he need to feel that his educational equipment was insufficient. After coming to Lowell he was employed in the Lowell Machine Shop, but deciding upon a profession he entered a Lowell lawyer's office and studied law, until finally admitted to the Middlesex bar in 1844. He began practice in Lowell and, save for the years of his absence during the Civil War, he was continuously engaged in professional work in Lowell, his career at the bar covering a period of forty-five years, 1844-89. His practice was very large and most scrupulously conducted, he holding his professional honor as sacred as he did his personal integrity. He was a leading member of the Middlesex County Bar Association, and held in the very highest esteem by his contemporaries. Honorable, upright, courteous, and most deferential to the court, he was a man to be loved, yet as an opponent greatly to be feared.

Mr. Ladd was always interested in military affairs, and at the outbreak of the Civil War was captain of Company H, Sixty-fifth Regiment, Massachusetts Militia, then known as the Wilson Light Guards, and after war was declared he was acting as chief of staff under General Sutton. He was at once detailed by Governor Andrews as master of transportation, and in that capacity accompanied the Sixth Massachusetts on their memorable march through the city of Baltimore on their way to the National Capital. In 1861 Captain Ladd was appointed paymaster with the rank of major, and until the war closed in 1865 he continued in the service of his country in that capacity. He then returned to Lowell and resumed his law practice, which was not again interrupted save by death.

He ever retained a warm feeling for his army comrades, was a loyal member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and took a deep interest in that order and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. That he was deeply interested in agriculture is shown in the active part he bore in founding the Middlesex North District Agricultural Society, an organization of which he was president for several years. He was superintendent of the first New England fair ever held in Lowell, and was the owner of some of the best horses in the county.

Major Ladd married Eunice Adaline Stickney, of Beverly, Massachusetts, who died in Lowell, August 4, 1895, surviving her husband about six years. She was the daughter of Captain Benjamin Stickney, a master mariner, whose home for many years was in Beverly. Major and Mrs. Ladd were the parents of two children: Frank J., deceased, a sketch of whom follows; and Eunice Adaline, deceased, was the wife of Henry K. Spaulding, of Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

Such was the career of a fine gentleman and lawyer of the old school. High minded, he never lowered his ideals and carried with him to the grave the highest esteem of his fellowmen.

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**FRANK J. LADD.**

Like his distinguished father, Frank J. Ladd was a man of strong character and ability, devoted to his home and family, and a lover of agriculture and agricultural life, and at his fine farm on the Butman road he spent much of his time when free from business cares, and the fine horses he owned and kept there were a source of great pleasure to him.

Frank J. Ladd, only son of Major Jonathan and Eunice Adaline (Stickney) Ladd, was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, July 15, 1849, and died there, March 8, 1915. He was educated in Lowell public schools, finishing in high school. When a boy he was allowed to visit his father in the city of Washington, and in this way he became familiar with the events of that period and acquainted with several of the prominent actors in the great war drama staged in the country during the years 1861-65. He began his business career as an employee of a Boston Oil Company, and with that house spent several years, becoming thoroughly acquainted with that business. Later he established a similar business in Boston under his own name, so continuing until 1890, when he sold out and became the accredited representative of large business interests in legislative matters. He was deeply read in matters affecting the business interests of the country, and his advice was sought from all quarters when legislation affecting tariff and taxes were being considered. After 1890 he made this his sole business, and became widely known as an expert in such matters, representing several large corporations. During his entire career Mr. Ladd retained his home in Lowell, his residence at No. 109 Fairmount street. He owned a fine farm on the Butman road, Lowell, and there bred and trained many fine horses. This farm is still owned by Mrs. Ladd, who operates it through a manager.

Frank J. Ladd married, April 7, 1869, Ella Prudence Clifford, born in Lowell, daughter of Weare and Prudence (Wright) Clifford. Weare Clifford was born in Hampton, New Hampshire, but early in life came to Lowell, where he mastered the art of dyeing, conducting Clifford's Dye House on Andover street for many years. He became a substantial citizen, public-spirited and progressive, taking particular interest in the volunteer fire department, which he served as chief engineer. His wife, Prudence (Wright) Clifford, born in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, died in Lowell, June, 1857. He died in Lowell, March,

