

THE
BIOGRAPHICAL CYCLOPEDIA

OF

REPRESENTATIVE MEN

OF

MARYLAND

AND

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

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The little family had the great misfortune to be deprived of its head when he was only a child of seven years. His widowed mother was left with but small means of support, and found it necessary when the son reached the age of ten to put him out to learn a trade. He was accordingly indentured to a sailmaker, Rev. Amos Beldin, a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church, who after some time became involved in business and fled from his creditors in the night. Young Wheeden then found another master, who also after a time left the city in the same manner. He had at this time been an apprentice five years, and seeking a third master, bound himself, and remained with him four years. This man fell at length into the vice of intemperance, ruining both himself and his business, and gave young Wheeden his liberty at the age of nineteen. He now felt himself a man; he had learned thoroughly the mechanical part of the sailmaking business, but was ignorant of the scientific part, the draughting and cutting. Being anxious to acquire this, he applied to a Mr. Sherwood, a prominent man in that business, and offered him his services for a year if he would impart to him the requisite knowledge, which contract was faithfully carried out by both parties; and on his twentieth birthday he became his own master, having completely mastered his trade. This had been accomplished under great difficulties and privations. During the long ten years, as was the custom for apprentices at that time, he had worked, eaten and slept in the sail-loft. His educational advantages had been very limited; confined for the most part to what he had learned in a night school, and in the Episcopal Sunday-school, under the Rev. Mr. Bartow. When, however, he had acquired the rudiments of an education he pursued his studies by himself till he became a well-informed man. He began on the completion of his apprenticeship to earn money as a journeyman, working sixteen hours a day for the small sum of one dollar and twenty-five cents; and continued faithfully to do this for two years. This life becoming monotonous, and desiring a change, he made several sea voyages, in which he performed the double duty of seaman and sailmaker. He visited the Mediterranean, and made two voyages around Cape Horn to Peru, in the Peruvian, a fine ship sailing out of the port of Baltimore. But the hardships he encountered cured him entirely of all fondness for a seafaring life; especially did it lose its charms when reefing sails off the coast of Patagonia, in the months of July and August, that being there in the dead of winter; and this labor performed at ten dollars per month, far from home and friends and every comfort. He had his full share of experience with storms and other perils of the sea. On one occasion, in May, 1829, when homeward bound from the Pacific, in latitude 14°, off the coast of Brazil, his ship was pursued nearly a whole day by a Spanish pirate. Many times the little black craft sailed round them, and frequently came close to them, but finally sailed away without an attack. The same pirate had boarded, killed the crew, and

sunk the English ship Lindock, only a few weeks previously. After two years' experience at sea, Mr. Wheeden returned to his former occupation in Baltimore, and having in January, 1831, married Miss Jane Belash, of that city, he began business on his own account. He had a partner who becoming intemperate he bought out. The young married pair found it necessary at first to practice the strictest economy, but Mr. Wheeden was exceedingly industrious and gradually making a way for himself, when, in 1836, he was offered a third interest in the house of Messrs. B. Buck & Sons, one of the most prominent firms in that line in the city. This offer he gladly accepted, and the partnership so formed proved not only a very agreeable but a very profitable one. It lasted about twenty years, till the death of the elder Mr. Buck, after which the son and Mr. Wheeden continued together three or four years longer, when the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. Wheeden carried on the business alone for several years longer, when, in 1861, he retired from it, having accumulated a handsome property, and became one of the most substantial and highly respected men of East Baltimore. Mr. Wheeden is a gentleman of superior intelligence and great business sagacity. Upright and honorable in his dealings, firm and decided in his character, his life well illustrates what can be accomplished by steady attention to business, and by pursuing a course of unswerving integrity. Such an example as his is of inestimable value to all young men whose success in life must depend upon their own exertions. His two brothers are deceased, and his wife died in 1872. Of their eight children only four are living, James Wheeden, Dr. Thomas J. Wheeden, of Brooklyn, New York, Edward Wheeden, and Harriet Dallas, now Mrs. Theophilus Cook.

BRADLEY, HONORABLE STEPHEN J., of Queen Anne's County, Maryland, was born in Caroline County, December 17, 1808. His father, John Bradley, a farmer, died in Tuckahoe Neck, Caroline County, in 1820. His mother was Rebecca, daughter of Benjamin Jump, of the same county. She was a devoted Christian, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and an exemplary wife and mother. She died in 1818, when her son Stephen was only ten years of age. He commenced attending school the year previous. His opportunities of education were equal to those enjoyed by the other farmers' sons of that time and locality, but would be considered very poor at the present day. In 1826 he left school and engaged as a clerk in the store of Captain Thomas Auld, the former master of Frederick Douglas. He was afterward a short time a clerk in Hillsboro. At the age of nineteen he commenced an independent life as a farmer, to which occupation he has from that time devoted himself. The farm he cultivated, known as the Bradley Farm, had already been

in the family for four generations, its earliest possessor having been Charles Bradley, who came from England in the latter part of the seventeenth century. He was accompanied by his brother Stephen, who settled in Annapolis, and was, in his time, a well-known attorney-at-law. In 1834 Mr. Bradley removed to Queen Anne's County, settling near Hillsboro, and in 1842 removed to the estate on which he now resides. It is known as "Cottage Hill," and is situated a mile and a half south of Sudlersville. In 1848 he was nominated and elected by the Whig party as Sheriff of the county, in which office he served three years. In 1853 he was elected on the same ticket to the General Assembly, and served two years. He was nominated for State Senator on the American ticket in 1857, his opponent being ex-Governor Grayson. Mr. Bradley was the only one of his party elected, the Democrats carrying their candidates for the Lower House. In 1867 he was nominated and elected on the Democratic ticket to the State Constitutional Convention. The public life of Mr. Bradley extended over a period of twenty years. In 1872 he was nominated, but declined to serve, as a member of the Orphans' Court of his county. Since 1827 he has been a member of the Methodist Church; he now belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church South. On June 29, 1828, he was married to Maria F., daughter of Daniel Baynard, of Caroline County. At her death she left five children, one of whom, Rebecca Ann, died in 1848. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Bradley married her sister, Elizabeth, by whom he has two daughters living. He is a man of sterling character and fine abilities, greatly respected and esteemed in the community in which he lives.

DAVIS, WILLIAM HENRY, M.D., son of John and Mary (Whitelock) Davis, was born in the city of Baltimore, September 22, 1810. His father, an eminent civil engineer, was born in England in 1770. Towards the last of the century he emigrated to the United States and settled in Philadelphia. Having lost his first wife he married, about the year 1800, Miss Mary Whitelock, of Frankford, now a part of that city. Of their children four sons and three daughters grew to maturity. In his professional capacity as civil engineer Mr. Davis was identified with the Fairmount Water Works. Early in the present century he removed his family to Maryland, and was for a number of years engaged in the construction of the Baltimore and Cumberland Turnpike. He macadamized that famous public road from Hagerstown to Boontown, it being the first work of the kind in the United States. At his death he had attained the great age of ninety-five years. His son William Henry received his early education at the Hagerstown Academy. He passed through the full course at Dickin-

son College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and graduated M.D. from the University of Maryland in 1834, since which time he has devoted himself to his profession in the city of Baltimore, giving up his practice only quite recently. He was married, in 1836, to Miss Lydia Poultney. They have no children. Dr. Davis is without question one of the representative professional men of Baltimore. At his birth the population of the city was only about ten thousand. He has witnessed its wonderful growth in numbers, prosperity, and power, and growing up with it has been identified with it all his life. For nearly half a century he has been one of its leading professional men, faithfully, ably, and honorably maintaining the dignity of his high calling. Shunning notoriety, he has quietly pursued his way, yet respected by all as a profound student, a trusted and skillful physician, and a conscientious and high-minded gentleman. He enjoyed in his day a very extensive and lucrative practice, and now in his ripening age, serene and hale, he enjoys the fruit of his labors, and the continued respect and affection of his many friends.

SHAW, ANDREW BRUCE, Manufacturer and Capitalist, son of Major William and Patsy Elliott (Burns) Shaw, was born at Moscow Mills, near Barton, Alleghany County, Maryland, November 4, 1837. The ancestors of the family emigrated from England to America early in the seventeenth century. His father served with distinction in the war of 1812. He was an extensive landowner in George Creek Valley, and realized large sums of money for his coal lands, as the coal deposits and industrial interests of that region were developed. In his younger years he travelled extensively, and in 1825, before steam navigation of the ocean, he undertook a trip to Europe, and was shipwrecked off the coast of Ireland. For many days the survivors were exposed to the inclemencies of the weather in an open boat, and pressed by starvation, were at the point of drawing lots that one man might give up his life for food for the rest, when a sail was hailed and a ship appeared to their relief. He kept a diary, giving a full and graphic account of his travels and experiences, which is in the possession of his son Andrew. The latter was of a studious disposition, devoted to his books, and, favored with abundant time and means, improved well his opportunities. Otherwise his educational facilities were not superior, being confined to the district school of his native place, and one course at the High School at Fairmount, West Virginia. While his father lived he was closely occupied in transacting for him the business growing out of the care of his property. His father had given leasehold titles to a great portion of his land in George Creek Valley, that had been laid off in town lots. The rents of these leases were