

James Monroe HUNTINGTON's ancestry can be traced to Simon Huntington, an English gentleman, whose family arrived in Boston, Mass., in 1633, he having died on board the vessel shortly before its arrival in port.

James Monroe's grandfather was Judge Andrew Huntington, of whom the late Mrs. Lydia Sigourney once said, *"was a man of plain manners and incorruptible integrity. His few words were always those of good sense and truth, and the weight of his influence was given to the best interests of society."*

He rendered invaluable services to the Revolutionary cause, and was one of Governor Trumbull's most trusted counselors. His brothers, Gen. Jedediah, Gen. Ebenezer, and Capt. Joshua, all sons of the old heroic patriot, Gen. Jabez Huntington, rendered distinguished services during the Revolutionary struggle.

James M. HUNTINGTON was born in Norwich, August 8, 1817, and in a large degree inherited the virtues and ennobling characteristics of his illustrious ancestors, whose names have ever been synonymous with integrity, uprightness, and a devotion to the best interests of society. He was educated in his native town, and commenced his business career as a clerk for the late A.F. Gilman, who conducted a drug business in the building now occupied by the firm of Lee & Osgood.

In 1837, when but twenty years of age, he was admitted as a partner, and when Mr. Gilman retired, in 1840, he formed a new partnership with the late Jedediah Leavens. In 1844 the firm removed to the wharf, in the building now occupied by Charles Osgood & Co. In 1846, Mr. Leavens retired from the firm, and a new partnership was formed, consisting of J.M. Huntington, Theodore Raymond, and James M. Meech, which continued until 1850, when Mr. Meech retired. The firm then removed to Commerce Street, where they engaged in extensive business enterprises, and became widely known throughout this section of the country.

In 1856, the firm purchased the Cold Spring Iron-Works, which were subsequently sold to the Mitchell Brothers. Shipbuilding was next commenced at what is now Thamesville, where this enterprising firm built eleven vessels, nine of which were steamers, constructing not only the hulls but also the entire machinery. Three of these steamers, the "Uncas," the "Norwich," and the "Whirlwind," were in the service of the government during the late Rebellion. They were also largely interested in the West India trade, owning a wharf and bonded warehouse in New London. One of their steamers, the "Whirlwind," was the first American merchant steamer that entered the port of Puerto Rico. In 1852, the firm held a contract to transact all the coal business over the Norwich and Worcester Railroad, with an extensive coal yard and business in the city of Worcester.

Mr. Huntington was very interested in the cotton and woolen manufacturing business from its infancy in Eastern Connecticut to the breaking out of the late

war. He was also, during the Rebellion, largely interested in manufacturing in Worcester, and furnished the machinery for all or nearly all the arsenals in the country.

In 1866, this firm established a line of passenger and freight steamers from Providence to Philadelphia, and, in fact, there is not a port of any importance from Newfoundland to Mexico that their vessels have not visited.

Public-spirited and generous, Mr. Huntington was ever found an earnest advocate of all measures, which, in his superior judgment, tended to advance the material, educational, and religious interests of his native city.

He was in all respects an ideal merchant, combining boldness of conception with unusual care and clearheadedness in planning, and uncommon skill in mastering and managing details. Upright and honorable in all his dealings with his fellow-men, it was often, and of truth, said of him that his word was as good as his bond. Stern integrity was born in him, a legacy of his Puritan ancestry, and what he exacted from those who had business relations with him he was equally scrupulous to accord to others. United with his indomitable energy was an inflexible will and unflinching courage that no obstacle could turn aside, and no disaster could daunt.

In religious matters Mr. Huntington was a Congregationalist, and politically a Republican.

October 11, 1841, Mr. HUNTINGTON married Emily Brewster Meech, who died Dec. 11, 1843, leaving one child.

He remarried on November 24, 1846, to Sarah G. BURGESS, of Plainfield. She died Nov. 14, 1864.

He was again married, December 14, 1865, to Elizabeth R. BARSTOW, of this city, who survives him.

He died Nov. 17, 1874, aged fifty-seven years.

History of New London County, Connecticut with Biographical Sketches of Many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men.

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