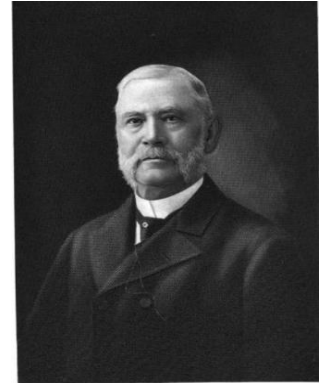


Waterman Rufus Burnham was born Dec 4 1831 in Windham and attended the district and the village school kept at Windham Center Miss Jane Fuller and others He later attended Connecticut Literary Institute at Suffield Conn After completing his schooling he entered the store of Col Samuel Tyler of Norwich Conn the capacity of clerk remaining there four years and then in company with his brother in law FM Lincoln bought the drug store of Edward Moulton Willimantic and engaged in business there under the firm name of Burnham & Lincoln Later he purchased the interest of his partner and for a time conducted the business alone Mr Burnham disposed of the drug business in 1855 and at the request of his father in law became connected with the business owned by Mr Wood known as the Uncasville Manufacturing Company Mr Burnham was at first an accountant later became assistant treasurer and finally treasurer He was serving in the later capacity when he retired from the position in 1897 after a term of service with that firm covering forty two years Mr Burnham was married Dec 25 1853 to Miss Julia A Wood daughter of Willet R and Julia A Reed Wood the former a successful cotton manufacturer at Uncasville Mr and Mrs Burnham had one son William who died at the age of three months Since 1873 Mr Burnham has been a resident of Norwich where he has a handsome residence located on the corner of Main and Park Streets Mrs Burnham died Jan 21 1882 and Mr Burnham was married again Dec 4 1883 to Miss Ella A Bradford a daughter of Rev EB Bradford a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Hyde Park Mass They have had two children Harold who died in infancy and Rufus Bradford born April 11 1886 who graduated from the Thacher School at Nordhoff Cal and concluded his preparation for Yale at the Norwich Free Academy Mr Burnham is a Republican in politics and during his residence at Uncasville was called to many positions of honor and trust In 1862 he represented the town of Montville in the Legislature he also served as chairman of the board of relief in Montville and was for many years school visitor in that town He took a very active interest in educational matters and was instrumental in securing the building of the present school house at Uncasville Mr Burnham attended the Congregational Church at Windham when a boy during the pastorate of Rev John Tyler and on removing to Uncasville where there was no Congregational Church he attended the Methodist Church When the question of building a new Methodist Church at Uncasville arose it was Mr Burnham who raised the funds and served on the building committee When the edifice which was a much more elaborate one than it was thought possible to have was dedicated it was entirely free from debt His interest and activity in church work by no means ended with this as in addition to being one of its main stays he took a foremost part in its Sunday school work serving as superintendent for a number of years Since his residence in Norwich he has been quite active in the affairs of the Broadway Congregational Church where he served as superintendent of the Sunday school for many years and is a deacon con in the church Mrs Burnham and her son are also members of this church Mr Burnham was one of the State Sunday school representatives at a large number of the International Sunday school Conventions serving on various committees and for some years was a member of the International Sunday school Executive Committee In 1880 he represented Connecticut at the Centennial of Modern Sunday schools in London at that time spending several months in travel in the Old World As a conductor of Sunday school institutes and a leader at conventions throughout the State as a presiding officer



W.R. Burnham

and as a practical and earnest speaker his words and work will long be remembered The intense and active interest taken by Mr Burnham in all kinds of religious and charitable work is best shown by his prominent and extensive connection with such societies He was for years chairman of the State Sunday school Association was for years chairman of the New London County Sundayschool Union is a corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions is a corporate member of the Connecticut Bible Society was the first president of the Norwich YMCA and served in that office for five years is one of the oldest members of the State YMCA committee and for many years has been the State Corresponding member of the International YMCA committee When the Norwich City Mission an organization now under the auspices of The United Workers was in existence he served as its president for several years In his long and useful life the work which stands out most prominently is that done in religious and charitable bodies a work that has been to him the most pleasant and marked by zeal and sincerity Mr Burnham in business circles is equally as well known He is vice president and one of the directors of the Dime Savings Bank and when the Second National Bank was in existence he served as one of its directors for seventeen years For some time he was a director of the New London Fire Insurance Company He is an active member of the New England Cotton Manufacturing Association member of the Home Market Club and a member of the Norwich Board of Trade As a citizen none in his city enjoys to any greater extent the respect and high esteem of all who know him A man of the strictest integrity he enjoys to an unusual degree the marked confidence of his business and social acquaintances Personally he is a man of most pleasing address His friends are numerous and in business and social life he has always been a prominent figure Mr and Mrs Burnham spend considerable time in travel For several years past they have made annual trips to the Pacific coast