

WILLIAM COIT OSGOOD, who for nearly three-quarters of a century has been one of the leading citizens of Norwich, was born in the town of Lebanon, New London Co., Conn., Jan. 8, 1816, and is a son of the late Dr. Erastus and Martha (Morgan) Osgood, of that town.

Mr. Osgood attended the district schools of his native town, one of his first teachers being Betsey Harvey. After finishing the course in the district schools he entered the store of his uncle, Mr. Gilbert, of Lebanon, with whom he remained as clerk for two years. He then went to Colchester, Conn., and became a student in the Bacon Academy, under the principalship of Prof. Charles P. Otis. After completing his studies there he taught school at Middle Haddam, Middlesex Co., Conn., for one winter term, receiving \$12 per month and "boarding around." Returning to Lebanon, he rented a farm which he conducted for one year, and in 1837 he came to Norwich, where he embarked in business with E. Y. Thomas, the partners conducting a meat market under the firm name of Thomas & Osgood. William C. Osgood had a capital of \$680, \$500 of which was borrowed, his father giving his security. The business was carried on with marked success, and after a few years Mr. Thomas disposed of his interest, which Mr. Osgood bought, continuing the enterprise until 1865, when, after twenty-five profitable years, he sold out. He bought land in Lebanon, owning three or more farms, one of which was the place on which William A. Buckingham (the war governor of Connecticut) was born. The value of his real estate holdings in the town of Lebanon was estimated at over twenty thousand dollars. After cultivating these farms for ten years, during which time he made his home in Norwich, he sold out, and on disposing of all his holdings in Lebanon bought a tract of land in Norwich, which he operated. During this time he became engaged in buying and selling cattle, having over two hundred acres of pasture and woodland in the town of Bozrah, which he sold in 1903. In 1902 he sold his Norwich farm for a cemetery—the tract of 100 acres now known as the Maplewood cemetery. He bore a high reputation for honesty in every transaction throughout his business life. In speaking of his business life we may mention the important part he had in the career of a very prominent merchant of Norwich. Mr. Osgood thought he detected the qualities which would make for success in the young man, and volunteered some advice and suggestions as to how he should proceed in business. The young man adopted the suggestions, having faith in the good judgment of his more mature friend, and rose to a high position in the business world.

Mr. Osgood has given up all farm work, and is now living retired in his home in Main street, Norwich, and though in his ninetieth year he is quite active, in possession of all his faculties, and takes a deep interest in all leading events of the day. He was a Whig originally, and was one of the

first Republicans in Norwich. His first Presidential vote was cast for William Henry Harrison, and he voted also for his grandson, Benjamin Harrison, casting his last vote for the martyred President William McKinley. He has always taken a profound interest in local public affairs, and served as a member of the common council of the city for three years, later acting as alderman. He also filled the office of selectman of Norwich, was a member of the board of relief, and served for many years as assessor of the town, giving able service in every capacity. Mr. Osgood has been a lifelong member of the Broadway Congregational Church. He is a man of genial manner, and has won hosts of friends who esteem and admire him for his firm Christian character and many sterling qualities.

Mr. Osgood was married (first) in Lebanon, to Sarah McCall, who was born there, daughter of Archippus McCall. She died about 1843 or 1844, and was buried in Lebanon. For his second wife he married Adaline Browning, daughter of Thomas Browning, of North Stonington. She died Nov. 10, 1845, and was buried in Yantic cemetery. Mr. Osgood subsequently married Sarah Adams, of Canterbury, Conn., daughter of Fitch and Sarah (Morgan) Adams, and she passed away Jan. 3, 1901, at her home in Norwich, after a happy married life of over fifty years, and was buried in Yantic cemetery. She was a devoted wife and mother, and a good Christian woman, a member of the Broadway Congregational Church. Mrs. Osgood possessed many Christian virtues, and was known for her charity and fine womanly character. She left two children: (1) William Coit, who resides with his father, married Fannie Griffin, and they have had two children, one that died young and William Coit (3). (2) Sarah first married Henry Morgan, of Winsted, Conn., and they had one son, William Osgood, who is now an attorney. For her second husband she married W. W. Gamwell, of Pittsfield, and they have one son, William Osgood.