

Sketch of Life of Garret A. Hobart

TWENTY-FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT

OF THE

UNITED STATES

AND

HIS IMMEDIATE ANCESTORS

GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART was born on June 3, 1844, in the village of Long Branch, Monmouth County, New Jersey. He was a great-grandson of Captain Abel Hobart (VII), a grandson of Major Roswell Hobart, and the son of Addison Willard Hobart, all of Columbia Valley, Columbia, Coös County, New Hampshire. Garret was of the tenth generation in America. (Edmond¹, Peter², Gershom³, Shebuel⁴, Shebuel, Jr.⁵, William⁶, Abel⁷, Roswell⁸, Addison⁹.)

Major Roswell Hobart is said to have been a man of brilliant parts; handsome, witty, convivial, and widely popular. He was a teacher in local schools, and taught in Colebrook Academy, in the founding of which he had a part. His brother, Harvey, was one of its original trustees.

Roswell also farmed on a small scale and was active in politics. He served two terms in the state legislature, was selectman, town clerk, and filled various minor offices. In 1819 he built a combination saw and grist-mill on Roaring Brook which he operated, apparently as a side line. He was highly respected and perhaps the best liked man of his town, although never very successful financially.

Addison Willard Hobart was born in Columbia, apparently in 1819. The town records were destroyed by fire around the eighteen seventies, and the writer has been unable to establish the exact date of his birth; but in the correspondence of Diana Hobart Buffington, Addison's first cousin, she writes, "he (Addison) cast his first vote for William Henry Harrison in 1840." Later she goes on to relate that after moving to New Jersey, he left the Whigs and became "the only one of the family known to have voted for the democratic party." It would appear that, in the eyes of his cousin, this was a serious misdemeanor!

Addison decided to follow his father's example and become a teacher. Around 1840 he went to Monmouth County, New Jersey, and found an opening as a teacher of a school in the town of Marlboro. What caused him to choose this location is not entirely clear, but it probably was due to joint plans laid with his boyhood chum, Socrates Tuttle, of Colebrook, New Hampshire. Columbia Valley is just south of the Colebrook town line, but little over a mile from Colebrook village. Addison and Tuttle were of the same age, seatmates in school, and constant companions. Tuttle also migrated to Monmouth County and, with Addison's help, got a teaching job, in a pay school, at Blueball in 1841.

Socrates Tuttle was born in Colebrook November 19, 1819. After a few years of teaching at Blueball, he took up the study of law, located in Paterson, New Jersey, and became mayor of the city and one of the leading lawyers of the state. His friendship with Addison Hobart was life-long, and out of that friendship grew history.

While in Marlboro, Addison married Sophia Vanderveer of that town. With his wife and first son, he moved to Long Branch, New Jersey, in 1841, and opened a school which he conducted until 1852, when he returned to Marlboro and opened a store. He also operated a farm in the same town. He died in Marlboro in 1892.

Sophia Vanderveer came from long lines of excellent and sometimes distinguished Dutch and French-Huguenot stock. She was the daughter of David G. Vanderveer and Catharine Du Bois. Her father was a descendant from Cornelis Janse Van der Veer (Son of John from the Ferry), who arrived at New Amsterdam on the ship "Otter" in 1659, from Alkmaar, in North Holland. Catharine Du Bois, was the daughter of the Reverend Benjamin Du Bois, who descended from Louis Du Bois, born about 1630, who escaped from persecution in France to Mannheim, Germany, and from that place came to New Amsterdam on the ship St. Jan Baptist in 1661.

Three of Addison Hobart's children survived the period of infancy. Erasmus, the oldest, died in early manhood. David Roswell, the youngest, died a few years after the death of the Vice President.

In school, Garret displayed his brilliance of mind and capacity for application by being prepared for college in his fifteenth year. As it was not thought advisable that he should enter college at so early an age, he spent a year at home. He seems to have filled this interval with some review of his studies, and with occasional employment in a store. It was decided that he should enter Rutgers College, and in his sixteenth year, he matriculated in the sophomore class at that institution. He graduated the third in his class in his nineteenth year.

After graduation, he taught school in Marlboro for a short time to get money to pay off school debts. He then accepted an offer from his father's old friend, Socrates Tuttle, to take him into his office and home during the period of his legal studies. By studying under this very unusual man, Garret was licensed to practice law on June 7, 1866, and in June, 1871, he became a counselor-at-law, and a master in chancery in 1872. To make the story complete, he married the boss's daughter, Jennie Tuttle, at her father's home, July 21, 1869.

From then on, his story is a part of American history. He served brilliantly in the New Jersey legislature, was speaker of both the house and senate, was at one time director on the boards of sixty corporations, and in 1896 was elected Vice President of the United States.

Garret's marriage to Jennie Tuttle meant union of two families of pioneer stock. To quote from Magie's *Life of Hobart*, "It is worthy of notice that the lines of descent and influence which met in Mr. Hobart's life and helped to mould his character, came in his wife's family also from the same period of this nation's history and from persons in similar circumstances and of very similar characteristics." The first members of the Tuttle family came to this country in 1640. Socrates descended from John, one of two brothers, who settled in Ipswich, Massachusetts. Jennie Tuttle Hobart was the daughter of Socrates' first wife, Jane Winters, who was the daughter of Baltus and Esther Winters of Paterson. Socrates and Jane were married May 23, 1848; she died June 14, 1849. Socrates Tuttle died February 12, 1885.

Garret and Jennie Hobart had two children who survived infancy. One was Fannie Beckwith Hobart, who died from malignant diphtheria at Bellagio, on Lake Como, Italy, while on a European trip with her family June 27, 1895; the other was Garret Augustus Hobart, Jr., who died in 1941.

Garret Augustus Hobart, Vice President of the United States, died at his home in Paterson, New Jersey, November 21, 1899.



Hobart