JACOB LANSING LANE

Son of Col. Derick Lane and Maria (Lansing) Lane. He married Caroline E. Tibbits, and was a lawyer, as well as a banker, and became president of the Troy Savings Bank. He was of high repute. His son, Derick, succeeded his father as president of that bank, and had extensive financial responsibilities in Troy as City Chamberlain, treasurer of the Troy Gas Co., etc.

Frederic V. S. Crosby, Treasurer of the Union Pacific Railway, of New York City, was a great grandson of Derick Lane.


JACOB L. LANE, Esq., 1818, a resident of Troy, N. Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society. (Died: 1859)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830.
The oldest son of Col. Derick Lane, was born at Lansingburgh, on June 24, 1794. After his father had removed to Troy his education was such as the village afforded, and by means of it he received a preparation which enabled him to enter Union College at a very early age. He was graduated from that seminary of learning in 1812 and soon after commenced in this city the study of law in the office of Dickinson & Mitchell. He subsequently pursued his studies with the Hon. John P. Cushman, and on June 2, 1818 was admitted to the bar and commenced the practice of his profession being associated with the late Hon. William L. Marcy. At this time Mr. Marcy was much interested in political matters and not infrequently wrote for the newspapers in support of Democratic principles as they were then understood. Mr. Lane, who belonged to the same school of politics was also an occasional contributor to the newspapers. For many years he was the secretary and actuary of the Troy Savings Bank, and it was owing in a great degree to his prudence and good judgment that the affairs of that monetary institution were so managed as to win the confidence of the community and to place it in the front ranks of similar organization in the United States. At one time the entire fund of the savings bank amounting to over $300,000, was under his control; and it is a remarkable fact, due to the confidence reposed in him, that during the panic of 1837 there was no run on the bank and no alarm manifested by its depositors.

In the practice of his profession Mr. Lane rarely appeared in the courts and for many years previous to his death his time was much occupied with the management of several estates which were intrusted to his care. He excelled in conveyancing and in drawing of wills, and as late as two weeks before his death dictated from his bed a will, in language as clear, concise, and legible as if he had drafted it in his own office surrounded his books. For several terms he was loan officer of the county of Rensselaer, and while holding that position he discharged its duties with the utmost fidelity and circumspection. For many years he was a director in several of the monetary, business, and benevolent institutions of the city, and was always for the scrupulous care with which he discharged the duties of every trust committed to his keeping. Although energetic in conducting any business in which he was engaged, he was very methodical and painstaking in his modes of procedure, and was never an advocate, either in theory or in practice, of that inattentive haste which was too often likely in mistake or error.

In his domestic relations Mr. Lane was singularly happy. On October 6, 1818, he was married by the Rev. David Butler, D. D., to Miss Caroline Elizabeth Tibbits, the only daughter of the late George Tibbits, and in her society secured that refined and intelligent companionship which filled his life with light and blessing. He was of a fine but massive build, and when in perfect health and at his best estate, stood six feet and two inches in height, and weighed about 220 pounds.
Marked as was his personal beauty, he was also distinguished for the amiability of his disposition and for his strong, practical common sense, and sound judgment. He died on Saturday, March 26, 1859.

His wife was born in Troy on June 25, 1800, in the dwelling which was formerly situated on the northeast corner of River and Congress streets. While yet a little girl she lived in the house now known as No. 51 First Street, and after the completion of the mansion at the head of old Congress St., now occupied by the Bay Home, moved there with her father in the year 1814. She received such educational advantages as the then village of Troy afforded, and being possessed of a vigorous mind acquired with ease a knowledge of the studies she pursued. Her life, brightened by many circumstances which are regarded as advantageous, was never tinged during its many years, with any manifestations of ostentation or superciliousness. In her youth the care of an invalid mother was her sweetest labor. Later on, to the duties which inhere in wedded life, were added those which were connected with the requirements of an almost helpless father, and so on, through life, the ministry of consolation and relief was that to which her strength and her heart were devoted.

Among the organizations of beneficence which grace the early days of Troy was the ancient and honorable society known as "The Ladies' Benevolent Society of Troy," which was established February 27, 1803, and of which the wife of the Rev. Dr. Jonas Coe, the first settled minister in Troy, was the first directress. Its object was to rescue indigent women and children from poverty and ruin, and among all its members, none, during its long history of quiet and unostentatious usefulness, was more efficient than was Mrs. Lane. As a member and officer of the Troy Orphan Asylum, and of the many benevolent organizations with which she was connected, the same statement is also true. But chiefly did her charitable nature find employment in visiting the sick and destitute, in ascertaining their wants by actual inspection, and in relieving the distress thus manifested by gifts offered by her own hands. Besides the afflicted who were thus aided by and through her care, she had on her list of beneficiaries certain kind friends whom she had known long years, and to whom regularly, as the years rolled on, she sent remembrances of her bounty and her love.

(As the remainder of the sketch was about Mrs. Lane, I have not copied it.)

FROM History of Rensselaer County, N. Y. pp190
Nathaniel Berthlett Sylvester
Everts & Peck
Philadelphia 1880

NOTE:--Portrait accompanies this sketch.