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## HISTORY OF WINDHAM COUNTY

in her father's store. The son received a commission in the United States Medical Corps, dated November 9, 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. Casey are members of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church and he has membership with the Knights of Columbus and was its second grand knight. He also belongs to St. Vincent's Society, of which he is treasurer. In politics he is an independent democrat and has served as tax collector and assessor. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished in a business way. He is truly a self-made man, for, starting out on his own responsibility when a little lad of eleven years, he has steadily worked his way upward by persistent purpose, by indefatigable energy and by straightforward dealing until he is now one of the leading merchants of Willimantic, honored and respected by all who know him.

## ELBERT LINWOOD DARBIE.

The life record of Elbert Linwood Darbie stands in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is never without honor save in his own country, for in the city of Danielson, in which he resides and in which he was born, Mr. Darbie has made for himself a most creditable place as a member of the bar. He possesses a mind naturally analytical, logical and inductive, and the thoroughness with which he prepares his cases and the strength with which he presents his cause have won for him a large, well deserved and enviable clientage.

His birth occurred in Danielson, December 31, 1882, and he is a descendant of one of the old Connecticut families. His paternal grandparents were David P. and Rebekah F. (Law) Darbie. The former was born in Brooklyn, Connecticut, and was a mill man. His wife, however, was born in Gloucester, Rhode Island. Charles Leonard Darbie, father of Elbert L. Darbie, was born in Danielson, Connecticut, December 9, 1846, and early took up the painter's trade, which he has always followed. He still makes his home in Danielson, where for many years he has occupied a prominent position in business circles. He married Honoria Morris, whose birth occurred in Pomfret, Connecticut, February 5, 1849, her parents being John and Bridget Morris. Her father was a native of Nottinghamshire, England, while his wife was born at Castlebar, in Connaught, Ireland. On coming to America they settled in Pomfret, Connecticut, and after the outbreak of the Civil war John Morris, loyal to the welfare of his adopted country, enlisted for active service in the Union army as a member of Company F of the Eleventh Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. He enrolled at Pomfret and went to the front, laying down his life on the altar of liberty, for he was killed in the battle of Cold Harbor. His son, Joseph K. Morris, also enlisted at Pomfret and was killed in the bathle of Petersburg, Virginia, so that the family was called upon to make great sacrifice for their adopted land.

Elbert Linwood Darbie, spending his youthful days in his native city, mastered the branches of learning taught in its public and high schools and started out in the business world in a humble capacity by driving the bread wagon for F. E. Wilson, a baker of Danielson. He was ambitious, however, and utilized every opportunity for advancement. He early realized, too, that industry wins and he made industry, therefore, the beacon light of his life. In 1899 he secured employment in the Quinebaug Cotton Mills of Danielson and for five years worked in the cloth room, but desirous of entering upon a professional career, he made arrangements for the study of law in the offices and under the direction of Harry E. Back of Danielson, who became his instructor on the 17th of September, 1906. After devoting every possible moment to the reading of law Mr. Darbie had sufficiently mastered the principles of jurisprudence to win admission to the bar on the 15th of January, 1913, successfully passing the required examination before Judge William S. Case at Hartford, Connecticut. He then entered upon practice in the office of his former preceptor, with whom he remained for two years, and on the 1st of January, 1915, having demonstrated his power, ability and resourcefulness, he was admitted to a partnership by Mr. Back under the firm style of Back & Darbie. This partnership was dissolved November 30, 1918, and Mr. Darbie has since been alone in practice. He enjoys a very liberal clientage which connects him with much of the most important litigation heard in the courts of this section of the state.

Mr. Darbie is a republican who gives intelligent support to the party and its principles, for he has made a close study of the questions and issues of the day. He has taken an active part in advancing republican successes, serving as chairman of the republican town committee since 1914. In October, 1909, he was elected to the position of tax collector and was reelected to that office in October, 1910. In April, 1915, he was elected burgess of the borough of Danielson and served until April 8, 1918, and in all of these different offices has been efficient, faithful and thoroughly reliable. He was chair-



ELBERT L. DARBIE

man of the police committee of burgesses and as such had supervision over the police department. Mr. Darbie's religious faith is indicated in his membership in St. Albans Episcopal church and he is serving as clerk of the parish. Fraternally he is well known as a prominent Mason. He belongs to Moriah Lodge, No. 15, A. F. & A. M., of which he is a past master; and he also holds membership in Warren Chapter, No. 12, R. A. M., of which he is past high priest. He has likewise been grand master of the First Veil in the grand chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Connecticut and now serves as master of the Second Veil; and he belongs to Montgomery Council, No. 2, R. & S. M., in which he has served as thrice illustrious master; to Columbian Commandery, No. 4, K. T.; to the Scottish Rite Consistory in Norwich, Connecticut, and to Sphinx Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Hartford. He is thus thoroughly familiar with all branches of Masonry and is most loyal to the teachings of the order. He likewise belongs to Putnam Lodge, No. 574, B. P. O. E., of Putnam, Connecticut; to Quinebaug Lodge, No. 34, I. O. O. F.; and to Sedgwick Camp of the Sons of Veterans of Norwich, Connecticut. In club circles, too, he is well known, having membership in the Bohemian Club of Danielson and the City Club of Hartford.

His military record is likewise an interesting one. On the 19th of August, 1901, he enlisted as a member of Company F, Third Regiment of the Connecticut National Guard, from which he was honorably discharged February 27, 1902, when the company disbanded. Its place was then taken by Company M of the Third Regiment of the Connecticut National Guard and Mr. Darbie enlisted in the latter organization on the 15th of October, 1903. He was promoted to the rank of corporal, advanced to the rank of first sergeant and on the 7th of August, 1906, became second lieutenant of Company M of the Third Regiment, which was reorganized as the Thirteenth Company of the Coast Artillery Corps on the 14th of December, 1907. Mr. Darbie was made a first lientenant of this company December 18, 1907, and was advanced to the rank of captain on the 1st of December, 1909, after which he commanded the company until December 1, 1916, when he was transferred to the Connecticut National Guard Reserve Corps and is now on the reserve list as captain.

Mr. Darbie is one of the popular and honored residents of Danielson. His entire course has been marked by progress, whether in his profession, in Masonic connections, in military circles or in other relations. In a word his developing ability has been recognized and placed him in a position of leadership, and few lawyers have made a more lasting impression upon the bar of Windham county, both for legal ability of a high order and for the individuality of a personal character which impresses itself upon a community.

## J. ARTHUR ATWOOD.

J. Arthur Atwood is one of the most prominent mill men of New England, being identified with various corporations which constitute a basic element in the general business progress and prosperity of the sections in which he operates. It is true that he entered upon a business already established, but in controlling and enlarging this, many a man of less resolute purpose or of more limited business capacity would have failed. He has developed the interests with which he has been connected along the lines of modern progress and his successful achievements are notable. Honored and respected by all, there is no man who occupies a more enviable position in manufacturing and financial circles, not alone by reason of the success he has achieved but also owing to the straightforward business policy which he has ever followed. He is today treasurer of The Wauregan Company of Wauregan, Connecticut, of the Ponemah Mills of Taftville, Connecticut, and of the Quinebaug Company of Danielson; Connecticut. His business interests further extend to the Danielson Trust Company, of which he was the organizer and is the president, and the Brooklyn Savings Bank of Danielson, of which he is likewise the president. He is a director of The Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company of Providence, Rhode Island, and of The Ancona Company of Fall River, Massachusetts. He was president of The Williamsville Manufacturing Company of Williamsville, Connecticut, until he sold his interests in that corporation. He was president of The Windham County National Bank from 1904 until 1914. He is a director of The Firemen's Mutual Insurance Company of Providence, Rhode Island, and The Union Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Providence, Rhode Island.

A native of Wauregan, Connecticut, James Arthur Atwood still makes his home there, although he now maintains his business office in Providence. He was born May 18, 1864, and is a descendant of Francis and Mary (Williams) Atwood, of Providence, Rhode Island, the latter a great-granddaughter of Roger Williams. Francis Atwood's son, John Atwood, had a son John who was a sergeant in the Revolutionary war. Ser-