



A history of Cleveland and its environs; the heart of new Connecticut, Volume 3

Elroy McKendree Avery

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Cleveland and Its Environs

Samuel Mather. "When it comes to indicating, however briefly, the results and influences that have proceeded from the presence of the Mather family in Cleveland through almost three quarters of a century, nothing could be more difficult than to attempt an adequate measure, estimate or judgment. Recourse must be had to enumeration rather than description, and statistics instead of interpretation. Under and in Samuel Mather and his father, the late Samuel L. Mather, have been concentrated many of the biggest business and industrial interests not only of Cleveland but of the entire Middle West, not to speak of almost countless relationships with civic movements and organizations, institutions and other concerns that simi up and express the best life and feeling of the community.

The Mathers have been iclentified, at least financially, with the history of the Western Re-sei've from the time of the Connecticut Land Company. The family name is suggestive of the finest old traditions of New England. It is only appropriate by way of introduction to indicate some of the earlier branches of the famih' in the respective generations. A number of Mathers are still found in England and Scotland, and nearly all those bearing the name in America are descended from Rev. Richard Mather, who was bom at Lowton, Lancashire, England, in 1596 and arrived at Boston, Massachusetts, August 17, 1635. In 1636 he was installed as the beloved pastor of the church in Dorchester, jMassachusetts, and died there in 1669. His son, Rev. Dr. Increase Mather, was the first native born president of Harvard College, while a son of Increase Mather, Rev. Dr. Cotton Mather, a graduate of Harvard, was senior pastor of the old North Church in Boston and became one of the greatest divines America has ever produced. However, that branch of tlie family ceased with Samuel Mather, a grandson of Cotton Mather. Going back to Rev. Richard Mather, he was

twice married, his first wife being Catherine Holt, who was the mother of his six children, while his second wife was Sarah Cotton, widow of the noted Rev. John Cotton.

Pursuing that branch of the family genealogy which leads to the Cleveland family, the second generation was represented by Timothy Mather, who was one of the foundei's of Yale College and who married Catherine Atherton and for his second wife Elizabeth Weeks. Richard Mather, a son of the first marriage, with his two brothers. Rev. Samuel, who located at Windsor, Connecticut, and Atherton, who settled at Suffield, Connecticut, became the ancestors of practically all in the United States today who are descended from the New England Mathers. Richard Mather lived at Lyme, New London County, Connecticut, where he died in 1688. His son Samuel, also of Lyme, married Deborah Champion. The fifth generation was represent.ed by Richard, who married Deborah Ely and lived at Lyme, Connecticut. Their son Samuel was a prominent man in Connecticut, and a member of the Connecticut Land Company. He married Lois Griswold.

Samuel Mather of the seventh generation, son of Samuel and Lois, was born in Lyme, Connecticut, in 1771, and after graduating from Yale College made a journey through the wilderness of the Western Reserve to inspect lands held by his father and other members of the Connecticut Land Company. On returning East he settled at Albany, New York, but finally located at Hiddletown, Connecticut, where he died April 16, 1854.

He married Catherine Livingston, of a prominent New York family. Of their nine children the oldest, Maria, married Maj. Gen. J. K. F. Mansfield of Middletown, Connecticut, who was mortally wounded at the battle of Antietam, in 1862.

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