

a very substantial way. Mr. Dimon is a very pleasant gentleman and deeply interested in the growth of his community, by whose residents he is universally respected.

CAPT. BENJAMIN T. GRIFFIN, a prominent and successful business man of Jamesport, was born in the town of Riverhead, near Aquebogue, October 16, 1823. To his parents, James and Elizabeth (Tuthill) Griffin, there was born a family of five children, of whom Benjamin T. was the eldest. James Madison, the youngest of the household, followed the sea for a livelihood, and died when forty-five years of age. The other members of the family departed this life when young.

James Griffin was born in the above town, and as soon as old enough apprenticed himself to learn the business of a ship carpenter, which he mastered in due time, following it very successfully during the greater part of his life. He fought as a patriot in the War of 1812, during which conflict he was severely wounded at Sag Harbor, on account of which he was afterward granted a pension by the Government. He lived to the advanced age of eighty-five years, and in his death the county lost one of its most respected citizens. He was a believer in the principles advocated by the Democratic party, and through his entire life supported its candidates. His father, the grandfather of our subject, was likewise born in this town, and was of English descent. Mrs. Elizabeth Griffin, our subject's mother, came from one of the oldest and most prominent families on the island. She lived to be eighty years of age, dying firm in the faith of the Congregational Church, with which she had been connected for many years.

Capt. Griffin remained with his parents until about eighteen years of age, when he left home and went to sea. Previous to this time, however, he had made his own way in the world by clerking in a store near his home. For eight years he followed the sea, coasting from New York to Southern ports, and was then made

mate of the vessel, holding this position for two years, when he was again promoted, this time being made captain, and for a period of nine years was in command of a packet plying between New York and Charleston. During that time he also made several trips to the West Indies. He had a splendid record as a captain, and during his long life on the waters never lost a vessel or suffered severely in any way from incompetency.

In 1861 Capt. Griffin settled down to life on terra firma, and, purchasing a tract of land in the town of Riverhead, moved upon the same and began its cultivation. He remained on this place until 1885, when he was appointed Postmaster of Jamesport, and in order to enter upon the duties of this position, rented his farm and moved his family into the village. Four years later, on the change of administration, he resigned his office and engaged in the wood and coal business in that place. His yards are filled with every variety of coal, which he retails at low prices, and by giving prompt attention to his customers he is in command of a large trade.

Capt. Griffin and Miss Desiah Hudson were united in marriage November 4, 1850. Mrs. Griffin was born in this town January 20, 1829, and was the daughter of Daniel and Rachel (Skillman) Hudson. She remained the companion and helpmate of her devoted husband for twenty-nine years, and on her death, January 30, 1879, left three children: Elizabeth, born January 31, 1852, is still at home with her father; James E., born April 29, 1855, was accidentally killed on the Northern Central Railroad July 24, 1895, leaving a wife and four children; Daniel H., born February 1, 1865, is the present Postmaster of Jamesport; Edward B., who was born in 1859, died the following year.

Daniel H. Griffin, who is one of the enterprising young business men of Jamesport, remained with his parents until reaching his majority. He was educated in the common schools, and upon starting out to make his own way in the world became assistant baggage master on the Long Island Railroad. This position he held for some time and was then expressman on the same for a

period of three years, his route being on the main line from Greenport to Long Island City. At the expiration of that time he returned home and became the assistant of his father in the post-office. On the change of administration we find him engaged in the harness business in company with a Mr. Hawkins, the firm being known as Griffin & Hawkins. They dissolved partnership after a year, and the business was then carried on under the style of Griffin Brothers. April 14, 1894, Daniel H. was appointed Postmaster of this place, still, however, retaining his interest in the store. June 27, 1895, he was married to Miss Eleda Ryne, of this place. In politics, like his father, he supports the candidates of the Democratic party.

ORANGE T. FANNING. The success of men in general depends upon character as well as upon knowledge, it being a self-evident proposition that honesty is the best policy. Orange T. Fanning, ex-County Clerk of Suffolk County, is a man whose career through life has been above reproach, and who has gained the respect and confidence of all those with whom he comes in contact. He is a native of East Quogue, born October 9, 1844, and the son of Jacob and Abigail (Fanning) Fanning, both natives of Flanders, the former born August 28, 1802, and the latter April 8, 1805. The latter's father, Nathaniel Fanning, followed the occupation of a farmer, but was a man of much learning, and for some time was a local Methodist minister. He and our subject's father were relatives. Mrs. Fanning died September 17, 1868, leaving a large family of children, of whom our subject was the youngest. One child, Abigail, died in infancy; Rosina married William Culver and resided at East Quogue until her death; Mary A. married Josiah Foster, a sea captain, who met with an accident that broke his neck, but lived for eight months afterward; she now resides at Bridgehampton; Charlotte Melissa married Stephen Aumack, of Port Jefferson; Wesley lives in California, and Emma J. was twice married and

now resides with her second husband, Azel Wells, of East Bridgeport, Conn. Some of Mr. Fanning's ancestors served with distinction both in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

The farm of his father furnished our subject with employment during his youth, and he received his education in the common schools. When sixteen years old he began dealing in cord wood and by his industry and close attention to business thus obtained a start in life. The year that he was twenty-one he cut and shipped one thousand cords, thus making considerable money. He was first married in 1866 to Miss Alethia Fanning, his second cousin, who died March 3, 1871, leaving no children. In 1880 Mr. Fanning married Miss Mary J. Ritch, daughter of Capt. Thomas J. Ritch, a dry goods merchant of Port Jefferson. They have one child living, Thomas Ritch. Martin R. died at the age of two years and nine months.

After the death of his first wife, Mr. Fanning became discontented and went West to visit his brother, then living in Michigan. After spending some time there and traveling through Illinois and Wisconsin, he decided that Long Island was good enough for him and returned. For some time after this he worked at the carpenter's trade, but later he embarked in merchandising at Port Jefferson, his being one of the leading general stores in the island. It is also one of the largest establishments on the island, and in this he is still interested. Politically Mr. Fanning is an ardent Republican and has ever taken an active interest in the welfare of his party. He was placed on his party's ticket for several local offices in the town of Brook Haven, a strong Democratic section, but finally, on the second trial, was elected, by a small majority. In the spring of 1888 he was elected Collector by two hundred majority and the same fall was nominated for Clerk of the county and elected by two hundred and eighty-five majority, the full strength of his party, and was re-elected by one thousand one hundred majority, which speaks well as to his popularity. After serving two terms he positively refused a third term and since January 1, 1895, has given his time to his other interests.