



JOHN H. ELSWORTH.

JOHN H. ELSWORTH, son of Capt. Wm. Elsworth, was born at Bayonne, N. J., in 1843. He was educated in the schools at Bayonne, and remained there in business with his brothers, who were extensive oyster planters, until 1877, when he came to Staten Island and entered into co-partnership with his present partner, Capt. Peter Polworth, in the oyster planting business, in which line the firm has always done a successful business and attained a high financial rating.

Mr. Elsworth has always been a staunch, hard-working and active Republican. In 1888, he received the unanimous nomination of the Richmond County Republican Convention, for the office of sheriff, and was elected by nearly two hundred majority, although it was a presidential year and Cleveland carried the county by nearly nineteen hundred. A desperate effort was made to defeat his election on forged returns, but the fraud was discovered in time to prevent his defeat, and he was triumphantly ushered into office, Jan. 1st, 1889.

During his term of office Sheriff Elsworth was often publicly complimented by the supreme court judges, and by the county judge, on the efficient and faithful manner in which he performed the duties of the office, and at the close of his official term Justice Cullen, of the supreme court, and the members of the county bar, irrespective of party, paid a high tribute to the manner in which Mr. Elsworth had performed his duties during his entire term.

Mr. Elsworth comes of a sea-faring family, noted for their skill in seamanship, his father having been a captain of a coasting vessel, at the early age of fourteen years. His brother Philip was a successful designer of yachts. Among the famous craft designed by him were the Montague, the Grayling and the Atlantic. His brother Joseph was one of the most skillful skippers that ever sailed in New York harbor. He commanded the Puritan in its race against the English yacht Genesta, and the May Flower against the Galatea, in both of which races he was successful, and won the cup.

Mr. Elsworth was married on the thirty-fourth anniversary of his birthday, June 21st, 1877, to Miss Elizabeth W. Jones, daughter of James S. Jones, of Snow Hill, Md. They have no children.