



CALVIN D. VAN NAME,

THE subject of this sketch is Calvin Decker Van Name of Erastina. He was born in the same town, Northfield, on this Island, January 3rd, 1857. His father was William Henry Van Name, a successful oyster planter, who died in Northfield some years ago. The son received the degree of L. L. B. from the University of the City of New York before arriving of age, and was admitted to practice law immediately on reaching twenty-one. Mr. Van Name, although a young man, has long been prominent on Staten Island.

As an attorney he was successful from the beginning. He was entrusted with important matters and acquired a large practice almost as soon as he was admitted to the bar.

He had a long training in the practice of law with L. Bradford Prince, since chief justice and later governor of New Mexico, but then senator from this district. This gave him a complete knowledge of the departments at Albany. That he made a favorable impression there is evidenced by the fact that he has obtained more grants of land under water than any lawyer in the state.

His successful conduct of the Foley South Beach case and the eviction of the Burkes and Lancaster Syms claimants from the Garretsons beach made all holders of old farm titles his lasting friends, and demonstrated the security of Staten Island titles.

His real estate practice is very large, and he has in his safes complete abstracts of the titles to the farms as they once existed in continuous line in Northfield from Bodine's Mill to Howland's Hook.

The Van Name family is the largest on Staten Island, and Mr. Van Name is related to all the branches. All are descendants of the old Hollander Jochem Engelbert Van Namen, who came here from Heusden in the ship Hope which sailed from Amsterdam April 8th, 1662. (Riker's History of Harlem, page 339).

Mr. Van Name is a member of the Holland Society of New York city. His mother is a Decker, which family is also one of the largest on the Island. She is Elizabeth, the only daughter of the late Benjamin Decker.

Mr. Van Name is a widower. His wife, Lizzie Emma, died May 14th, 1892. They had one child, Hazel Jane, now seven years old.

He is a large property owner in Northfield, and has long been identified with all movements of public benefit in that section. His knowledge of the Island and his numerous friends make him a strong man.

He was formerly a prominent Republican, serving for years on the county and state committees and in the county and state conventions. He was from time

to time nominated for the different county offices including county judge, assembly and district-attorney, but always declined. He will not leave his large practice for public office.

He always expressed strong feelings against monopolies, and sincerely believing that they were fostered by the Republicans, in the fall of 1893 joined the Democratic party.