

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JOHN
G. DEANE, AND BRIEF MENTION
OF HIS CONNECTION WITH THE
NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY OF
MAINE**

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Biographical Sketch of John G. Deane, and Brief Mention of His Connection with the
Northeastern Boundary of Maine by Llewellyn Deane

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LLEWELLYN DEANE

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OF
JOHN G. DEANE,
AND
BRIEF MENTION OF HIS CONNECTION WITH THE
NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY OF MAINE,

Copied by permission from the records of the
Maine State Historical Society;

ALSO, FAMILY AND OTHER MEMORANDA.

(PRINTED FOR PRIVATE USE.)



Compliments of

L. DEANE,

of Washington, D. C.

ALSO,

MEMORANDA ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, OLD
RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH,
MAINE, &C.

PREPARED BY, AND PRINTED FOR, HIS SON,

LLEWELLYN DEANE,

JUNE, 1885,

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
JOHN G. DEANE,
OF
PORTLAND, MAINE.

John Gilmore Deane was born in Raynham, Massachusetts, March 27, 1785. His parents were *Joseph and Mary (Gilmore) Deane, both of whom were born and lived and died, in said Raynham.

He graduated at Brown University, in the class of 1806; read law in Taunton, Massachusetts, with *Hon. Seth Padel-
ford, (Judge of Probate and LL. D. "Brown,") and settled in
Ellsworth, Maine, September 23, 1809. He married, Septem-
ber 13, 1810, Rebecca, who was born in Taunton May 29, 1792,
and was the youngest daughter of Judge Padel-
ford, aforesaid, and Rebecca (Dennis) his wife.

AS A LAWYER AND A MAN.

Mr. Deane was admitted as attorney in the Court of Com-
mon Pleas, Hancock County, in 1810, and, according to the
rule in those days, four years later, as counsellor in the Su-
preme Court. (For many years Hancock County was very
large territorially. From 1810 to 1816 it included a portion
of Penobscot County, and from 1810 to 1827 most of what is
now Waldo County, as well as a part of the present Knox

* See appendix.

County. Castine was the shire town till February 17, 1836.) He acquired a very extensive law practice, and was held in high esteem by the Court and Bar. He enjoyed the warm personal friendship of Simon Greenleaf, John Orr, Jacob McGaw, William Abbott, Samuel Fessenden, William P. Preble, Thomas A. Deblois, Joshua W. Hathaway, Prentiss Mellen, George Herbert, Charles S. Davies, and most of the judges and leading lawyers of the State in those days. He was not only a good student of the law, but he had a very fine literary taste,—his style of composition was remarkably pure and graceful. He gathered a very good miscellaneous library of the best works in history, poetry, romance and essays; his law library was a very large one for those days, comprising the standard text books and the American and English Reports. He was a subscriber to *North American Review* from the first issue.

He certainly held some town offices—but as the town records were destroyed by fire some years ago, it is not possible now to say what offices or when he was the incumbent. It appears by records in the Massachusetts State House that in 1813 he was one of the Selectmen who signed a petition to reimburse the town of Ellsworth for the expenses of the militia ordered out to suppress the riot in Castine in July, 1813.

He was connected with the militia organizations during his earlier professional life, and was in brief service as an officer during the war of 1812. He subsequently rose to the position of Lieutenant-Colonel in the militia, and in his later years was commonly known as "Colonel" Deane.

He had a great fondness for all kinds of manly sports; loved to have about him good horses and fine dogs, and was enthusiastic in hunting and fishing. His ardent pursuit of these pastimes led him very often to make long excursions into the then wild regions north and northeast of the town of Ellsworth. He was famous in all the region round about as a marksman. It was commonly reported that at Thanksgiving shootings he was either ruled out or obliged to shoot double, or treble, the distance of the ordinary range.

PERSONALLY AND SOCIALLY.

While I have spoken of my father as a lawyer and a man, I deem it only proper to say a few words about him personally and socially, simply as my father—a purely private individual.

In stature he was about five feet ten inches tall, of fair size in frame, spare in flesh, rather dark in complexion, hair brown, eyes also brown. He never wore a beard. Though a good conversationalist he was not talkative, but rather inclined to taciturnity. In his family, however, and with his children he was more the "big brother" than the stern parent, and had a pleasant and affectionate way of entering into the studies, sports and engagements of our youth. I well remember when in the winter of 1838-9, he was busy with the draughtsman in the preparation of his map of Maine, and used the parlors of our State street house in Portland as his office, how intensely he was delighted at finding one day among his papers, my childish attempt at a war romance. The marvel and fun of it were on his tongue for many a day afterwards. Nor can I ever forget the romps we younger children used to have with him on the floor, sofas and about the room. When I was only ten years of age, once on his return from a brief absence, he gave me "Botta's American Revolution," saying that though written by an Italian, it was the only good history of that war. He was greatly concerned that his boys should be well versed in history. He took a youthful pride in the account my brothers Joseph and Henry gave of the debates before the "Pnyxian" and "Philomathean" debating societies, which about those times had quite a local reputation, particularly the former. Always on his return from a trip to the "Westward," that is, Massachusetts, he was sure to remember all his boys with a present of a book.

LIFE IN ELLSWORTH.

My father was not a member of any church. In his earlier life in Ellsworth, after the organization of the Congregational

church in 1812, he, with my mother, worshiped there, and the whole family attended that church till our removal to Portland. The pastor from September 3, 1812, to November 11, 1835, Rev. Peter Nourse, (brother to the late Dr. Amos Nourse, of Bath, formerly U. S. Senator from Maine,) was a famous man in those days; renowned for his zeal in the gospel ministry and for the goodness of his heart. I know we little folks, in the latter days of his pastorate, used to think his sermons exceedingly long. I am sure that he sowed good seed in that soil, and watered them faithfully with prayers and tears. When I first read Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" it seemed to me that his parish priest

"Passing rich with forty pounds a year,"

was a veritable or counterpart Pastor Nourse. This godly man was indeed rarely useful in his day and generation in educational as well as gospel matters, but, if my childhood's memory serves me well, his life was not a gay period of enjoyment, or rich with present rewards for work well done. I hold his memory in warm esteem because of the respect and affection with which my parents regarded him. Our family were not allowed to talk lightly or with disrespect of our religious teacher. He was my mother's pastor and spiritual counsellor in the many scenes of affliction she was called to pass through in the sickness and death of those of her children who deceased before we moved from Ellsworth, and in the death of her mother, Mrs. Judge Padelford, who, having for some time made her home with my parents, died there about 1822. The funerals of all these were attended by Pastor Nourse. They were all buried in the Congregational churchyard—a modest stone tells their resting places and names.

Nor was my father alone interested in the upbuilding of this church—his catholic views in religious matters led him to make a donation when the Baptist church was being built on the west side of the river, not far from the present county buildings. I suppose his gift amounted at least to the price of a pew, for I know that not long before we moved from Ells-