

John H. Gleason.



John H. Gleason.

JOHN H. GLEASON, one of Troy's most popular citizens, was born in Schenectady, N. Y., September 25, 1844. He lived in "Old Dorp" until he was twelve years of age when he came to Troy and attended school for three years. At the expiration of this period he returned to Schenectady, but in his eighteenth year he decided to learn the trade of a blacksmith and came to Troy for that purpose. He served a thorough apprenticeship with Daniel Lucey and Culkin & Donohue. For the five following years he worked in the shops on Starbuck's Island. Then he went into the blacksmithing business for himself at No. 124 Fourth Street where he remained five years, moving to the Dennin Building, at the foot of Fulton Street. He rented the ship-yard from the city and retained possession of it for six years. While he controlled this yard which has since disappeared, occurred the famous Gleason-Hancock war. The Hancock line of steamers insisted on landing at Mr. Gleason's dock and refused to recognize the fact that he was the tenant and the city the landlord. Mr. Gleason triumphed in the end, and the whole city was brought to admire his pluck and determination. When his lease of the ship-yard expired Mr. Gleason erected a brick shop at the foot of the street and remained there in business until two years ago, when he was appointed assistant superintendent of the water-works and keeper of the reservoirs. These positions he still holds, discharging their onerous and responsible duties with eminent satisfaction. For nine years Mr. Gleason was a member of the Board of School Commissioners. He refused an offer of the presidency of this commission. For one year, under Governor John T. Hoffman, he was inspector of steam boilers for this Congressional District. Mr. Gleason was a deputy sheriff for three years under Sheriff McKeon, for three years under Sheriff Hotchkin and for three years under Sheriff Reynolds. Mr. Gleason has been prominent for years in the councils of the Democratic party. He was a delegate to the Saratoga convention which two years ago re-nominated Governor David B. Hill. Mr. Gleason is a member of the Pilsners, the Edward Murphy, Jr., Association and the Exempt Firemen's Association. He is married, his wife having been Miss Margaret E. Inwood. Three children, John E., Robert I. and Mary Alice, are the light and the joy of the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Gleason. A daughter, who was a teacher in the public schools, died not long since.

Child 1920