

THOMAS¹ OF WOBURN

Seventh Generation

No. 7120

NAME: Jacob Emerson⁷ Chamberlain "Emerson"

Father: Jacob⁶ Chamberlain (No. 6867)
[Abel⁵ (Jacob⁴, Samuel³, Thomas²⁻¹)
and Ruth (Emerson) Chamberlain]

Mother: Mary Elizabeth Spear

Born: 6 Mar 1841, New York City, New York Co., NY

Died: After 1910,

Buried:

Married: 7 Oct 1891, perhaps New York City, NY

Other Marriages:

No. 14083

SPOUSE: Ella Cecilia Slaven

Father: Thomas Harrison Slaven

Mother: Helen Meagher

Born: About 1860 (?),

Died:

Buried:

Other Marriages:

BIOGRAPHICAL

In 1846, Emerson's family moved to Jersey City, where he received his education in private schools. Not wishing to enter college, he studied foreign languages under private tutors with the idea of completing his education in Europe. However, the death of his father prevented the fulfillment of this plan, and he had to enter into business, taking his degree in the college of hard knocks.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, he joined a company of young men, who like himself, intended to enter the ranks of the Union army. They had nightly drills and instruction from competent masters. Their motto was *Be Prepared*. A number of men from this company gave a good account of themselves at the front, and several rose to honorable commands under General Grant and General Sherman. But it was not Emerson's fortune to join his comrades in the fight for the Union, due to injuries he sustained in being thrown from a carriage at Morristown, NJ. His chief injury being a broken leg, incapacitated him for over two years, preventing him from engaging in active physical activities.

He entered Wall street in 1863, after acquiring some experience in the Commission and Shipping business. After serving his apprenticeship as a clerk for three years in banking and brokerage houses, he was elected a member of the Stock Exchange on 20 Nov 1866, and began business at No. 30 Broad street. In 1869, he started the Loan Market in the Exchange, being the originator of the method of borrowing and lending stocks and money in the Board Room, and the first specialist in this department. Previously, all loans were made by messengers sent from bank to bank and from office to office. A detailed account of the beginning methods and value of this important department of the Board of Brokers is given in an article entitled *The Loan Market*, by Emerson Chamberlain, which was included in the *History of the Stock Exchange*, edited by a Mr. E.C. Stedman, and printed in 1905.

After a very active business career of some 35 years, he severed his connection with the Stock Exchange and retired. His experiences included some of the most exciting episodes and disastrous panics that have ever afflicted Wall Street.

His home was located in Summit City, NJ, where he had an estate situated in one of the most favorable areas of that celebrated health resort. He was fond of outdoor exercises and was familiar with every part of the country around him, as far as a horse, a bicycle or walking could carry him. His pet hobby was books, and his library was especially rich in volumes autographed by their authors, many of whom like Oliver Wendell Holmes, Edmund C. Stedman, Charles Dudley Warner, were personal friends. He also had a fine collection of Ralph Waldo Emerson's works, as was natural from the similarity of name to the surname of his paternal grandmother (who descended from the Havehill Emersons, not the same stock as the Ipswich Emersons from whom the sage of Concord came).

He was a member of numerous clubs, societies, and associations which included: The New York Athletic Club, The Reform Club, The Players Club, The Sons of the American Revolution, The Society of Colonial Wars, The Chamber of Commerce, St. George's Society, and the Municipal Art Society, all of whom were in New York City; The Baltusrel Golf Club, The Morris County Club, and the Monday Night Club, of Summit, NJ; The Free Trade League of Boston, and The National Geographic Society of Washington, D.C. In 1907, he was a member of the old Chamberlain Association of America, at Boston, MA.

He regularly prepared annual papers for two literary societies, made occasional contributions to magazines and newspapers, gave a fair amount of attention to clubs, and association meetings, and kept up with the proper consideration of social obligations. Though retired, he had quite enough duties to minimize any idle hours. His chief philosophy was that one of the greatest joys in life was in one's occupation and that every day caught from the hurrying hand of time came as a golden present.

His wife's Slaven family of Tres Pinot, San Benito County, CA, trace their origins back to Normandy, where some of the name were later living in Budapest, Hungary. The American branch, however, emigrated many generations ago, passing through Normandy, Ireland, Canada, and finally find their ideal country on the Pacific slopes of Southern California.

PREPARATION OF THIS RECORD

This record was prepared by the late David C. Chamberlin Sr., using data obtained from various sources as listed. Comments and additional information are welcome and should be sent to the World Chamberlain Genealogical Society. < www.chamberlain-society.org >
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