

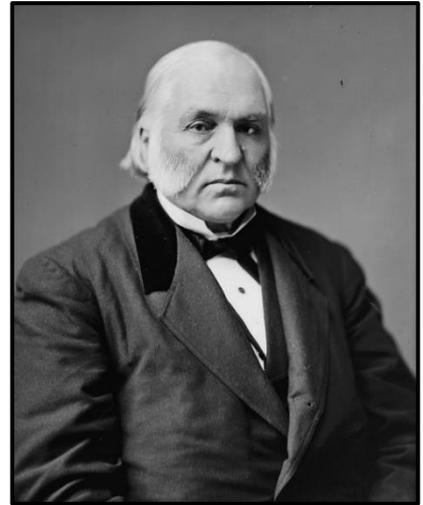
ELBRIDGE GERRY LAPHAM

Born: October 18, 1814, Farmington, NY

Died: January 8, 1890, Canandaigua, NY

Cemetery Location: Section 5 Lot 226

Elbridge Gerry Lapham was born in the hamlet of Mertensia in the Town of Farmington on October 18, 1814 to Judge John & Zimroda Lapham. His early life was spent on a farm. He received a common school education, working in the summer to aid in supporting his family. After completing his studies at Canandaigua Academy, where he was a classmate of Stephen A. Douglas, he studied civil engineering and followed his profession on the Michigan Southern railroad. *(On a side note, Stephen Douglas studied law in Canandaigua at the Walter Hubbell law offices. He grew up to be a U.S. Congressman and Senator that lost to Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 U.S. Presidential election.)*



Back to Elbridge. After his days with the Michigan Southern railroad, Lapham went onto study law. He was admitted to the bar in 1844 and practiced in Canandaigua. On July 2, 1844, in Clifton Springs, NY he married Jane Frances McBride (1825 - 1907). He was elected to the Constitutional Convention of New York in 1867 and in 1875 he was chosen to congress as a Republican, serving until 1881. In that year, he was elected to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Roscoe Conkling, for the term ending in 1885.

He was a delegate to the New York State Constitutional Convention of 1867-68. He was elected as a Republican to the 44th, 45th, 46th and 47th United States Congresses, holding office from March 4, 1875 to July 29, 1881, when he resigned after his election to the U.S. Senate. He was one of the managers appointed by the House of Representatives in 1876 to conduct the impeachment proceedings against ex-U.S. Secretary of War William W. Belknap.

He was elected as a Republican to the United States Senate on July 22, 1881 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Roscoe Conkling and served to March 4, 1885. He was not a candidate for re-election. He served as the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Fish and Fisheries (48th Congress).

While in congress, he sat on the Committee on Foreign Relations that oversaw many activities, one of which is the American Red Cross. Elbridge was instrumental in getting the bill sponsored, and passed, to start the American Red Cross, a movement inaugurated by nurse, humanitarian, and civil rights advocate Clara H. Barton, in 1881. The first chapter of the American Red Cross was located in Clara Barton's hometown (located not far from Canandaigua in Dansville, NY) formed on August 22, 1881. There have been several publications written about Clara that included Elbridge, such as "The Angel and the Senator".

Here's where gets interesting (especially if you're keeping track of dates). Prior to the initiation of the American Red Cross and somewhere during her lecture travels in the mid to late 1860's, Clara becomes very good friends with women's rights activist Susan B. Anthony. It just so happens that Elbridge Lapham is Susan B. Anthony's cousin! Didn't see that coming! Did Susan use her cousin connection to help Clara in her quest?? Hmmm, we will never know.

Everyone knows (or should) the story behind Susan B. Anthony and her violation of voting laws in 1872 which basically forbid women the right to vote. Her movement eventually changed the U.S. Constitution and created the Susan B. Anthony Amendment which was later ratified as the 19th Amendment allowing women the right to vote. During her Federal trial held at the Ontario County courthouse in 1873, although not involved legally in the trial, Elbridge was in the courtroom to morally support his cousin.

After his political career, Elbridge resumed practicing law in Canandaigua. Over the years, he lived in a couple of different homes in the village (now City of Canandaigua), to include one Tudor style home located Howell Street during the years of 1868 to 1870 and another located on Main Street, which is now the Elm Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. In 1890, he died at "Glen Gerry," his home on the east side of Canandaigua Lake, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

BONUS MATERIAL: *Speaking of Elbridge's cousins, we may as well add a couple of more that are of significance, such as Lewis Henry Lapham and Christopher Lloyd. Lewis made a fortune consolidating smaller companies and is one of the founders of the Texaco Oil Company. Christopher Lloyd, still active as an incredible actor, is best known for his roles as "Doc" Emmett Brown in the "Back to the Future" trilogy, Jim in the "Taxi" comedy series and as Uncle Fester in "The Addams Family" movies.*

There's a lot of history located on the beautiful grounds of Woodlawn and you just really never know what connections it will lead to!

A "Portion" of the Joshua and Hannah Lapham's Family Tree

Joshua Lapham
1721 - 1799

Hannah Sherman
1727 - 1797

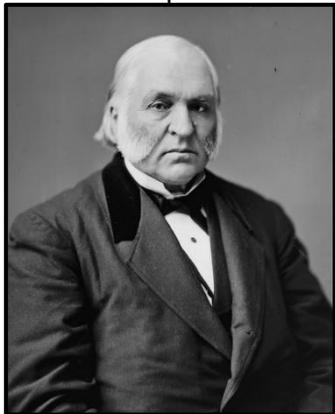
David Lapham
1753 - 1830

Judith Smith
1757 - 1846

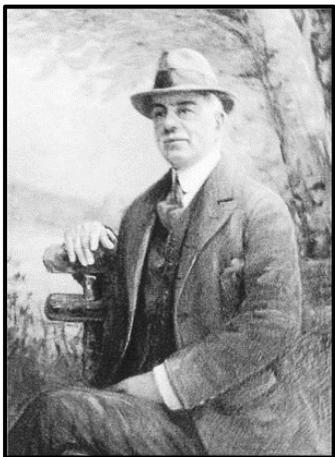
Judge John Lapham
1793 - 1860

Zimroda Smith
1793 - 1879

Elbridge Gerry Lapham
1814 - 1890



The son of Judge John and Zimroda Smith Lapham and husband of Jane F. McBride. He was elected United States Senator July 24, 1881-1885, served in Congress as Republican Rep. 1875-1881, New York. He played an important role in the creation of the American Red Cross.



Hannah Lapham
1773 - 1841

Humphrey Anthony
1770 - 1866

Daniel Anthony
1794 - 1862

Lucy Reed
1793 - 1880

Susan Brownell Anthony
1820 - 1906



Susan B. Anthony was an American social reformer and women's rights activist who played a pivotal role in the woman's suffrage movement. Born into a Quaker family committed to social equality, she collected anti-slavery petitions at the age of 17. In 1856, she became the New York state agent for the American Anti-Slavery Society.

Lewis Henry Lapham was an American entrepreneur who made a fortune consolidating smaller business in the leather industry. He was also one of the founders of Texaco Oil Company.

Nathan Lapham
1761 - 1843

Elizabeth Arnold
1759 - 1835

Jesse Lapham
1788 - 1863

Elizabeth Griffith
1798 - 1878

Henry Lapham
1822 - 1888

Samantha Vail
1826 - 1905

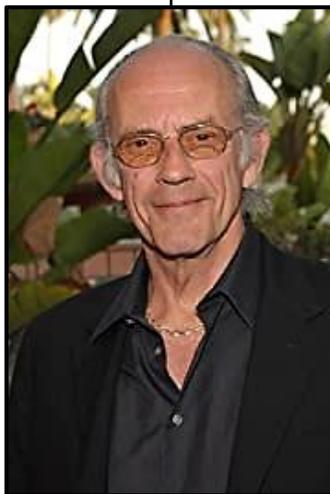
Lewis Lapham
1858 - 1934

Antoinette Dearborn
1861 - 1956

Ruth Lapham
1896 - 1984

Samuel Lloyd
1897 - 1959

Christopher Lloyd
1938 - 20



Christopher Allen Lloyd is an American actor. He has appeared in many theater productions, films, and on television since the 1960s, and is known for portraying Dr. Emmett "Doc" Brown in the Back to the Future trilogy and Jim Ignatowski in the comedy series Taxi, winning two Emmy Awards for the latter.

All cousins. You just never know!