

Sketch of Charles H. Larrabee¹

By Lyman C. Draper

Few men were more prominently connected with public affairs, or better personally known, in Wisconsin, from 1847 to 1864, than the subject of this sketch—a member of the convention that formed our constitution, a circuit judge, and, *ex-officio*, a justice of the supreme court—an unsuccessful candidate for chief justice—a prominent member of Congress—a volunteer in the ranks at the outbreak of our Civil War, then a lieutenant, a major, and finally a colonel; conducting himself with zeal and credit in four engagements, namely, the affairs at Lewinsville and Lee's Mills, and the battles of Williamsburg, and Perryville or Chaplin Hills. These long and useful services, civil and military, in behalf of Wisconsin, and, in part, in behalf of the Union, deserve a fitting record.

Charles Hathaway Larrabee was born in Rome, Oneida County, N. Y., Nov. 9th, 1820. His father, Maj. Charles Larrabee, of the U. S. army was a native of Connecticut descending from a Huguenot clergyman, who escaped from St. Bartholomew's massacre, in France, and migrated to the New World with a few of his surviving flock. About the middle of the seventeenth century, we find Greenfield Larrabee settled at Saybrook, Connecticut. Maj. Charles Larrabee commanded a company under Gen. Harrison at Tippecanoe, receiving his commander's special notice for his good services in that notable engagement with the Indians; and, at the battle of Brownstown, in August, 1812, he lost an arm while managing the artillery. In the maternal line, the subject of this notice descended from John Haynes, colonial governor, first of Massachusetts, and then of Connecticut; his mother's father,

¹ The delay in printing the latter part of this volume, permits the insertion of this sketch, which would otherwise have been postponed for the next issue of the series.

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