

ROBERT ALEXANDER HAMILTON

by
Harrington Adams
and
Benjamin F. Black

Robert Alexander Hamilton, a respected and revered member of the Northampton County Bar, died at Easton on May 22nd, 1965.

Mr. Hamilton was born in Mifflintown, Juniata County, August 11th, 1868, the son of Rev. James J. and Kate Hoffmeyer Hamilton. He graduated from Lafayette College with the class of 1892, earning the degrees of B.A. and M.A. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He taught school and became principal of the then South Easton High School.

Mr. Hamilton studied law in the offices of General Frank Reeder and William S. Kirkpatrick and was admitted to the Bar on December 12th, 1900. He served as solicitor and deputy to the Sheriff of Northampton County from 1905 to 1916. Later he was associated with Dallett H. Wilson, Esq., in Bethlehem, and subsequently became a member of the firm of Lehman, Hamilton and Castellucci. On February 26th, 1951, at the Pomfret Club, in Easton, he was honored by the County Bar Association on the 50th Anniversary of his admission to the Bar. He was a member of the Northampton, Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations. In his practice of the law, Mr. Hamilton was a perfectionist in every sense of the word. He would draft and redraft pleading after pleading until it was letter perfect. He was a gentle and considerate person, but for himself a hard taskmaster. His passing leaves a great void. The Bar has lost a fine scholar, a gracious gentleman and those of us who knew him a good friend.

An interesting sidelight is the fact Mr. Hamilton's father, a Presbyterian minister, argued his own case before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, securing a reversal of the lower court's decision. The case is reported as *Hamilton vs. Lycoming Mutual Insurance Company*, 5 Pa. State Reports, 339.

Mr. Hamilton was an active member of the Sons of the American Revolution and St. Mark's United Church in Christ, Easton, and was a generous supporter of many charitable organizations. Mr. Hamilton was unmarried and was the last surviving member of his family.