

IN MEMORIAM: NEWBOLD TROTTER LAWRENCE.

BY MAUNSELL SCHIEFFELIN CROSBY.

Plate II.

NEWBOLD TROTTER LAWRENCE was born in New York City on May 6, 1855, and died in Antwerp, Belgium, where he was visiting his son, on August 14, 1928, after a short illness.

Three Lawrence brothers came to America in 1635, landing at Plymouth, Massachusetts, and going thence to Long Island, New York. One of these was William Lawrence, 15th in descent from Robertus Laurentius of Asburton Hall, Lancashire, who accompanied Richard the Lion-hearted on the Crusades and was the first to mount the rampart at Acre in 1191.

This William Lawrence became patentee of Flushing, Long Island, and the largest land holder there. The Lawrences of Lawrence were descended from him and Newbold T. Lawrence was in the direct line of descent.

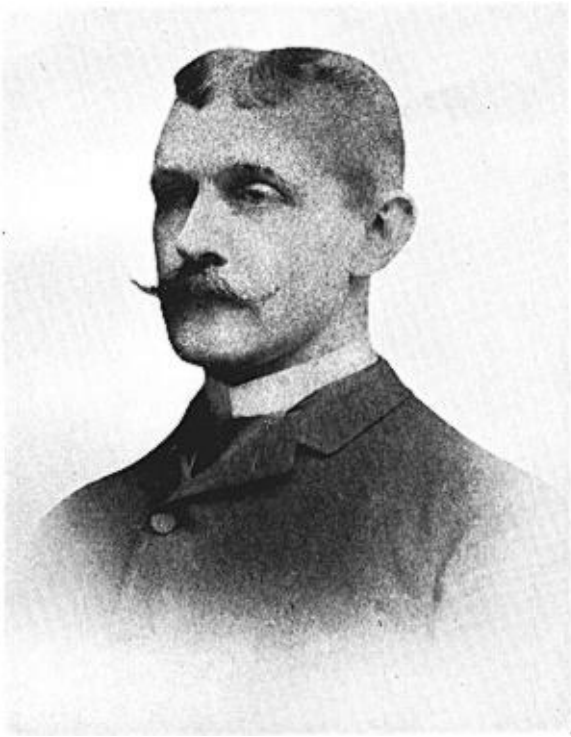
His father was Newbold Lawrence, brother of the ornithologist, George N. Lawrence, and his mother was Miss Anna Hough Trotter of Philadelphia. Both his parents were Quakers, but as his father was a Hicksite and his mother belonged to the Orthodox sect, they could not be married in meeting and so they were married by an Episcopal clergyman. This was in 1851. They made their home at 45 East 29th Street, New York, between Fifth and Madison Avenues in a three-story brick house newly built on what had recently been a farm. Here Newbold T. Lawrence was born. He attended a private school in New York, and among his school mates was Harold Herrick, who later named Lawrence's Warbler for him and who also became his brother-in-law by marrying one of his sisters. Mr. Lawrence spent one year attending New York University and then entered the real estate field with H. H. Camman and Company. Later still he became an independent real estate broker, remaining in the business up to the time of his death. His summer home at Lawrence, originally a tract of 125 acres, was bought by his father and developed by Mr. Lawrence for summer homes of the better sort for the metropolitan population. It was

ideally located on the south shore of Long Island, with constant cool breezes blowing throughout the summer months.

In 1887 Mr. Lawrence was married in the Church of the Incarnation to Miss Isabel Gillet of Baltimore, daughter of N. Halleck and Eliza Gillet. Two children died in infancy, but a son, Newbold T. Lawrence II, survives, now with a shipping firm in Antwerp, and he has a son Newbold T. Lawrence III.

Mr. Lawrence was from boyhood interested in birds and early made a collection of over six hundred skins, which he left in his will to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. He became keen at shore-bird and duck shooting and was particular to keep a written record of the birds he collected. It is interesting to find, for instance, that in 1873 he found such species as the Eskimo and Long-billed Curlew and both Godwits relatively common at Long Beach, Long Island, compared with their absence or rarity today, and that he also collected there the Gull-billed Tern. In his notes he calls the Eskimo Curlew the "Dough-bird" and the Long-billed Curlew the "Sickle-bill," the Hudsonian Godwit the "Ring-tailed Marlin" and the Marbled Godwit the "Brown Marlin." He was a friend of the late Eugene P. Bicknell, and when the latter came to Long Island to live and began to make a special study of the birds of Long Beach, Mr. Lawrence turned over all his notes to him and these were incorporated in the 'Birds of the New York City Region' by Mr. Ludlow Griscom.

The type specimen of Lawrence's Warbler (*Vermivora lawrencei*), already mentioned, was obtained by Mr. Lawrence from Chatham, New Jersey, and described by Mr. Harold Herrick in 1874 in the 'Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia' (P. 220, pl. 15). It was further recorded in 'Forest and Stream' (Volume 12, No. 9, P. 165). From the start there were those who considered it a hybrid between the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) and the Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) along with the much commoner Brewster's Warbler, but it was some years before this was satisfactorily proven. A second specimen, from near Hoboken, N. J., was recorded by Mr. Herrick in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' in 1877 (Vol. 2, P. 19) and from then on more and more data were obtained, until its validity as a species was conclusively rejected.



Very Sincerely
Wm. J. Lawrence

(PORTRAIT REPRODUCED FROM AN OLD PHOTOGRAPH).

Mr. Lawrence also frequently went on hunting trips in eastern Canada. These, and occasional visits to Europe with his wife, were the sum of his travels, and he lived an entirely quiet and retired life with his family. He became a director of the Union Square Savings Bank in New York and for many years was treasurer of St. John's Episcopal Church in Lawrence. His clubs were the St. Nicholas, The Rockaway Hunt, and the Flanders Club, a shooting organization. In 1904, Mr. Lawrence's wife died. He had no brothers, but four sisters, and thereafter he spent much of his time with one of them, Miss Caroline Lawrence. His son went to Annapolis and during the World War was in the hazardous submarine service.

After his marriage Mr. Lawrence's ornithological activities ceased, although he maintained to a certain degree his early interest in and knowledge of ornithology. He had been unable to attend the Founders' meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, but was elected an Active Member at that meeting, along with his distinguished uncle, and when the classes of membership were changed, he became a Fellow and in 1913, at his request, became a Retired Fellow. The only meeting of the Union which he attended was at Philadelphia in 1921 when he accompanied his cousin, Dr. Spencer Trotter. However, for a number of years, he attended the meetings of the Linnaean Society of New York.

Mr. Lawrence was exceedingly good-looking with a fine complexion and good color, and was always well and strong. He possessed a wonderful disposition, always being cheerful and hopeful when things went wrong. He was very popular and genial even when meeting people for the first time, and was much sought after by his friends.

Mr. Lawrence's contributions to 'Forest and Stream' were:

1. Notes on several Rare Birds taken on Long Island, N. Y., an interesting paper. (Vol. X, No. 13, p. 235).
2. Loons Breeding at the Schoodic Lakes, Maine. (Vol. XI, No. 16, P. 320).

To 'The Nuttall Bulletin':

3. The European Widgeon in the United States. 1878, p. 98.
4. The Ipswich Sparrow on Long Island, N. Y. 1878, p. 102.
5. The Greater Long-beak. (An argument offering specific differ-

ences between the Dowitcher and the Long-billed Dowitcher, in which he is supported in the same number by George N. Lawrence.) 1880, pp. 154-157.

To 'The Auk:'

6. Long Island, N. Y., Bird Notes. 1885, pp. 272-274.

7. European Widgeon in Long Island, N. Y. 1902, pp. 195-196.

Rhinebeck, New York.