

Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester, History of Ulster County
New York, ^{Part 2} p. 312 A.



L. A. Chichester

The family of Chichester came from Wales, and settled at an early day in Greene Co., N. Y. His father, Samuel, born in Cairo, N. Y., in 1801, was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and upon reaching his majority had charge of the building of the Catskill Mountain House on its present site, a part of which is standing in 1880. In 1835 he built a factory in Hunter, Greene Co., for the manufacture of wood- and cane-seat chairs, and was the first man to use machinery in their construction in the State of New York. He employed some forty men in his manufactory, and continued in business there until 1844, when he went to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where he built a chair-manufactory, and was in business alone until 1853, when he associated with him his two sons, Lemuel A. and Franklin Chichester, and Sylvester Andrews, under the firm-name of L. A. Chichester & Co. This firm did a large business, making sale of their goods largely through their warehouse in New York, which was in charge of Samuel Chichester. The firm dissolved partnership in 1857, but Samuel Chichester continued in charge of the warehouse in New York until 1870, and died in 1873.

Lemuel A. Chichester, son of Samuel and Susan (Andrews) Chichester, born in Hunter, Greene Co., Jan. 30, 1831, was fourth in a family of ten sons, eight of whom are living. He received only a common-school education. At the age of fifteen he entered his father's factory as an employee. At the age of eighteen he became foreman of the business, which position he retained until the organization of the firm of L. A. Chichester & Co. After the dissolution of this firm, he remained in Poughkeepsie in business until the spring of 1863, when he went to

Shandaken for the purpose of supplying material for the use of the Poughkeepsie factory. The factory being burned in the fall of 1863, Mr. Chichester the same year formed a partnership with Mr. Partridge (Chichester & Partridge), built a manufactory of one hundred feet in length in Shandaken, and began the manufacture of cane- and wood-seat chairs. In 1871, Mr. Chichester purchased his partner's interest in the business, since which time he has continued the business alone. Mr. Chichester is among the most enterprising men in Ulster County. He has enlarged his manufactory to four hundred and sixty-four feet in length, and keeps in constant employ some three hundred men and women.

His trade extends not only to the leading markets in this country, but reaches Europe, South America, and the most important markets of the world. His products are shipped direct from the manufactory to his customers in the various markets. His business aggregates three thousand six hundred chairs and some nine hundred rocking-cradles per week. He owns a large tract of some seven thousand seven hundred acres, situated in the towns of Hunter and Lexington, Greene Co., and in Shandaken and Woodstock, Ulster Co., besides giving employment to some twenty-five saw-mills, located on various streams in the vicinity of his manufactory.

He is identified with the Republican party. He married Emeline B., daughter of Washington Davids, of Poughkeepsie.

They have four sons: George D. (supervisor of the town of Shandaken in 1880 and bookkeeper for his father), Samuel, Henry, and Oscar.