

Edward Martin, his last will

"New York Times Dec. 16, 1893 - Before His Death Edward Martin Assigned Property Worth \$1,000,000"
Chicago, Dec. 15 -- The will of Edward Martin, who died at Red Hook, N.Y. Dec. 3, has been filed in Judge Hudson's court at Yorkville, Kendall County, Ill. It disposes of an estate upon which heavy inroads have already been made for the benefit of others, and yet leaves a balance that may reach \$1,000,000 or more. It has been intimated that Martin has been worth in years gone by, no less than \$2,000,000, but in the last three years, he often said: "If the Lord spares me long enough my executors will have practically nothing to do." And that is how it turned out. The millionaire bachelor had been his own executor, and it is believed that he assigned no less than \$1,000,000 worth of property within a period of two years among his relatives and others that met his idea as worthy of his beneficence. The will, dated June 8, 1891, is a brief document, and gave no intimation of the value of his estate. It first gives to John Littlejohn and Bertha Bell, two employees at his Red Hook home, \$250. He provides for the division of the estate into forty equal parts, and the largest amount given to any one person is two shares. The executors named in the will are Serena Martin of Red Hook, N.Y.; John O'Connor of Joliet, Ill.; and Samuel Beers of Chicago. The witnesses were James C. O'Connor, Ambrose O'Connor, and Judge Parks all of Joliet. The will provides that the executors dispose of the property to the best advantage inside ten years and divide the proceeds among legatees as prescribed. The executors stated that the personal property left by Mr. Martin amounted to about \$230,000, and gave bond for twice that amount, as required by law. It is known that Mr. Martin possessed real estate to the value of \$150,000 when he died, and that he held mortgages, bonds, and deposits that will swell the whole amount to nearly \$1,000,000. It may be even more than that amount. Included in the real estate that he owned at his death was a one-hundred-acre tract in Minnesota, between St. Paul and Minneapolis, valued at \$125,000, and a farm in Kendall County worth \$10,000."