

Edward Martin, Millionaire and Philanthropist

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Edward Martin, millionaire and philanthropist, who was one of the pioneers in the railroad building and development of the great West, died at the Martin homestead in Red Hook yesterday of heart disease. For many years, he had lived in comparative retirement. His fortune, which consists almost entirely of real estate in Chicago and the State of Illinois, purchased in the earliest days of Chicago, is estimated at several millions. He was born Feb. 18, 1811 on the farm in Red Hook which was settled in 1751 by this great grandfather, Hendrick Martin. He was one of a family of ten sons and one daughter, his father being John G. Martin, who in 1804 represented Dutchess County in the State Legislature. The only surviving member of the family is Henry Gilbert Martin, ninety years old, who lives at Iselin, N.J.

Mr. Martin went to New York at the age of seventeen years without money or friends, and secured work with the West Point Foundry Association, at Beach and West Streets. He rose to the position of manager. While with this company he helped in the construction of the famous John Bull engine, plans of which he had in his possession up to the time of his death. He was later put in charge of the Camden and Amboy Railroad and Transportation Company, which was one mile long, and was built under his supervision. He went West in 1835, making the journey to the present site of Chicago in three weeks. At that time there was but one log house there, and wolves prowled in the prairie grass where the city now stands.

He was present at the first sale of lands and made his first purchase at \$1.25 an acre. He entered into the service of the American Fur Company, and made fourteen trips in a birch canoe from one end of Lake Michigan to the other. After a time, he went to Mississippi, and for five years, was engaged in building a railroad. From there he went to Cuba and built a railroad there. Returning to this country, he was made Treasurer of the Hoboken Land Improvement Company and had charge of the Amboy Railroad Company. He later became one of the civil engineers of the Hudson River Railroad and helped to construct the line from Albany to Hyde Park. When this work was completed, he was made General Superintendent of the Galena and Chicago Railroad. When the Rhinebeck and Connecticut Railroad, now a branch of the Reading system was built, nearly twenty years ago, he was made its President and was a large shareholder. While in Paris he was a guest of Emperor Napoleon.

When the Reformed Episcopal Church of America was founded in Chicago, Mr. Martin, who was one of the founders, agreed to give land, then valued at \$250,000 to the church with the provision that an equal amount of money be raised to erect buildings suitable for a university of learning, to be known as the Martin University. This money was not raised, and so far as is known, the land remained in his possession. This land is now valued at more than \$2500 an acre. It was said recently that there was not a county in Illinois in which Mr. Martin did not own land.

Mr. Martin was an extensive traveler, even in his later years, visiting nearly every state in the Union. His home has always been in Red Hook, where for a number of years, he lived with his niece, Miss Serena Martin. His funeral services will be held at the residence at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon."