

FREDERICK J. KINGSBURY

"Among Waterbury's distinguished citizen was Frederick Kingsbury, a lifelong resident of the municipality and a potent factor in its material, political, civic, and moral development."

— History of New Haven County, Connecticut

Born in Waterbury on January 1, 1823, Frederick John Kingsbury was the nearest thing to a "Renaissance man" that Waterbury has ever seen. In a city devoted to manufactures and trade, he was a conspicuous representative of the best American culture, illustrating the practicability of combining an intelligent interest in literature, art and science with fidelity to important business trusts and to constantly accumulating duties.

Kingsbury graduated from Yale in 1845, became a member of the Bar, and was elected to the state legislature. In 1850, he obtained a charter for a bank, to be known as the Waterbury Savings Bank. Three years later he established the Citizens' Bank of which he was president for many years. Concurrently with his banking positions, he served as President of Scovill Manufacturing Co. from 1868 until after 1900. He played a role in every public work and charitable organization in the city, including the Silas Bronson Library, the Mattatuck Historical Society, Riverside Cemetery and, in 1876, he designed the City of Waterbury Seal.

In addition to his interest in the growth and prosperity of his native town, Kingsbury maintained active membership in numerous scholarly organizations. He served as President of the American Social Science Association, had a great interest in genealogy and local history, and wrote numerous pieces, including an autobiography which paints a vivid picture of childhood and youth in nineteenth century Waterbury.

Kingsbury was a member of the Corporation of Yale University from 1887 to 1899, and was honored with law degrees from Yale and Williams College. He was treasurer of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Connecticut from 1879 until his death on September 30, 1910. As treasurer of the Bronson Library Fund from its formation, he played a strong role in the development of the Library in its early years.

