



BENJAMIN BROWN.

BENJAMIN BROWN came to Staten Island in 1853 from New York, where he was reared and educated. His first entrance into politics was in 1861, when he was elected to the office of constable on the Democratic ticket. In 1869, after one of the hardest fights known in local politics, he was elected trustee of the village of Edgewater, which office he held for several years, serving also one term as president of the board.

In 1876, he was elected to the office of sheriff, and at the expiration of his term was elected treasurer and collector for the village of Edgewater which offices he held for three years when, in 1882, he was again elected sheriff. At the expiration of his second term, he was made under-sheriff under John J. Vaughan, Jr., thus serving nine years as sheriff and under-sheriff.

During the days of the old Volunteer Fire Department, Mr. Brown was the prime mover in organizing the Edgewater Fire Department and was for a time its president and treasurer, and for six years its chief engineer. Soon after the breaking out of the Civil war, he helped to organize the fifth Ira Harris Cavalry, and was its first forage master.

He is a strong advocate of Loan Associations and always endeavors to impress upon the working man the benefits to be derived by joining them and owning his home.

In 1887, he organized Pioneer Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen which lodge soon reached a membership of two hundred; this organization is a benevolent order or life insurance and has paid for its sick and deceased brethren over seventy thousand dollars in this short space of time. He was made district deputy the same year and has organized ten lodges in this county. The tenth lodge Vigilant, No. 429, was instituted on November 11th with the largest list of charter members of any that has yet been organized in the county.

Mr. Brown is now engaged in the coal and wood business at Stapleton, having purchased the long established coal yard of S. C. Hall, where he is doing a thriving and prosperous business.