

- not sent to Mrs. Barrows ✓ **BARROWS**

Interview with Mrs. C. Storrs Barrows,
122 Chelmsford Road

1/19/40

Mrs. Barrows very kindly spent several hours looking through scrapbooks and clippings for the names of older people who lived in the neighborhood of the Eastman's, who went to St. Luke's church, with them, or who otherwise might throw light on Mr. Eastman's early life. She is about 45 years of age now, and is too young to have direct knowledge of his earlier years.

She said that the Eastman's lived across the street from her father, E. Darwin Smith, who was a boyhood chum of Mr. Eastman. While she does not recall definite experiences with either George Eastman or his mother, she feels that he was a quieter, more gentlemanly boy than her father, who was a "roughneck" when he was a lad. According to her father, George Eastman was tied to his mother's apron strings and was a "saintly kind of kid." Perhaps because they were so different, Mrs. Barrow's father felt interested in George and was nicer to him than the other boys were.

Although he was not boisterous, young George did associate with the older lads and belonged to their neighborhood club. Lads were initiated into this by standing on a barn floor with bare arm extended while someone on the loft above let the wax from a lighted candle fall on the outstretched arm of the candidate. Mr. Eastman carried the mark of this "fraternity" on his forearm all his life.

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When Mr. Eastman became well-to-do he got away from the friends and neighbors of early days, Mrs. Barrows says, and sought a new clique of friends. She believes that, in spite of the wide circle of his associations, Mr. Eastman had a "mother complex" which made him inhibited and not so much at ease as he would have been otherwise in the company of other people.

However "inhibited" he might be in personal life, in business competition Mr. Eastman could be ruthless, she states, and tells of an example. This was the case of a Dutchman by the name of Kuhn who bucked Mr. Eastman. Mr. Eastman first tried to buy this coarse, blustering fellow and, as he could not, he squeezed him out of his profitable business and took it over.

Mrs. Barrows considers Mr. Eastman as a quiet, lonely, thinking type of man and she believes that under suffering a person of this type would naturally tend to end his own life.

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