



Haverford Township Historical Society



GEORGE BURNLEY (1804-1864) **CHARLES BURNLEY (1808-1881)** **JOHN BURNLEY (1820-1883)**

Compiled by Richard D. Kerr

[The following is excerpted and adapted from Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of Chester and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania, by Gilbert Cope and Henry Graham Ashmead, published by The Lewis Company, New York and Chicago in 1904.]

JOHN and MARY BURNLEY were from Yorkshire, England, where the former named was engaged in a blanket manufactory.

A son, **GEORGE BURNLEY**, was born December 28, 1804, in Littleton, near Leeds, Yorkshire, England, where his youth was spent. After receiving a limited education in the district school, at an early age he entered a neighboring factory, and after acquiring a thorough knowledge of the business of a manufacturer, came to this country in 1825, and at once located in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania. He then entered into the manufacture of carpets in Philadelphia, but this enterprise not proving very successful, he removed to Haverford, rented a mill on Cobb's creek, and began the manufacture of cotton goods. In 1844 he removed to Darby Creek, in Upper Darby township, and erected the Tuscarora Mills, in which he manufactured cotton goods and also spun yarn. Mr. Burnley continued in this line of business until 1861, when, having accumulated a sufficient competence from his many years of labor, he retired from its active management, and was succeeded by his brothers, John and Charles, and his son, George E. Burnley. In politics Mr. Burnley was formerly a Whig, but upon the formation of the Republican party he cast his vote with that body. In religion he was a Swedenborgian, being a member and trustee of that church. On December 31, 1838, he was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Lomas, daughter of James Lomas, of England. Ten children were born to them, five of whom are now living. He died August 9, 1864, in the sixtieth year of his age.

CHARLES BURNLEY, also a son of John and Mary Burnley, was born in Levisage, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, England, June 21, 1808. He obtained his literary education in the common schools of his vicinity, and later entered a blanket manufactory, where he learned the trade of spinner. He devoted his attention to this line of business in his native country until 1842, when he came to this country and at once settled in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, For two years he was engaged in spinning with his brother, John, after which he removed to Upper Darby and pursued his vocation in connection with his brother, George. At a later date the three brothers, George, John and Charles, formed a co-partnership for the manufacture of cotton goods, which was continued until 1865, when Charles purchased a farm in Middletown township, to which he devoted his entire attention. Mr. Burnley was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and interested in all movements for the advancement and spiritual growth of the community. In 1838 he married Miss Susanna Woodcock, a daughter of James and Mary

Woodcock, of Hightown, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, England. Mr. Burnley died October 13, 1881, aged seventy-four years.

JOHN BURNLEY, another son of John and Mary Burnley, was born in Littleton, Yorkshire, England, May 14, 1820. After completing his studies he learned the trade of spinner, and on September 12, 1838, left his native country to seek a larger field of labor in America. His first employment was with his brother, George, in the manufactory at Cobb's Creek, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, where he remained until May 2, 1844, when he removed to Darby Creek, Delaware county, and became a partner with his brother in the manufacture of jeans. He then entered into business relations with George Mallison and George Gladhill, under the firm name of Burnley & Co., removed to Lenni, rented the Parkmount Mills, and began the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods. In 1870 he retired from the active pursuits of a business life, but two years later, together with George Mallison and Francis Butterworth, resumed his business relations under the style of Burnley & Co., which, in July, 1878, was changed to the "Parkmount Cotton and Woolen Company, Limited." Mr. Burnley acted in the capacity of secretary and treasurer of the company until his death, which occurred November 26, 1883. Mr. Burnley was twice married, his first wife having been Mary Lomas, daughter of James and Mary Lomas. Mrs. Burnley died August 1, 1881, and Mr. Burnley then married Alice Lomas, sister of his first wife, the ceremony being performed March 1, 1883.

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