



WILLIAM JOHN FITZGERALD (1864-1937) AND FAMILY

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A man's reputation is the property of the world. The laws of nature have forbidden isolation. Every human being submits to the controlling influence of others or, as a master spirit, wields a power, either for good or evil, on the masses of mankind. There can be no impropriety in justly scanning the acts of any man as they affect his public and business relations. If he is honest and eminent in his chosen field of labor, investigation will brighten his fame and point the path that many others may follow with like success. From among the ranks of quiet persevering citizens, there is no one more deserving of mention in a work of this kind than **WILLIAM JOHN FITZGERALD**, of Ardmore, Haverford township, Delaware county, Pennsylvania.

His great-grandfather, **CHARLES FITZGERALD**, was born near Glasgow, Scotland, and went to Ireland to purchase horses for the English army. He took with him his son, John Fitzgerald, and they traversed nine counties of Ireland in order to make their purchases in the most satisfactory and profitable manner.

JOHN FITZGERALD was very much pleased with conditions in Ireland and with the country in general and decided to make his home there. He settled in the parish of Pratla, County Clare, Ireland, and, coming to America in 1840, died in this country and is buried in the graveyard of St. Mary's Church, in Philadelphia. He married Margaret Scanlon, born in Belfast, Ireland, and had children:

1. John Fitzgerald, see following;
2. & 3. Charles and Michael Fitzgerald, deceased, went to California during the "gold fever" of 1849;
3. Catherine Fitzgerald, married John Scanlon;
4. Mary Fitzgerald, married John Quigley;
5. Alice Fitzgerald, married Charles C. Barry;
6. Elizabeth Fitzgerald, died unmarried.

JOHN FITZGERALD was born in Chicago, Illinois, January 2, 1814, died in 1898. For a time he was connected with Gilliman & Company, liquor dealers, then formed an association with the Hamilton Dray Company which later became the Adams Express Company of Philadelphia. He also had charge of all tile stevedoring on the Delaware piers and docks for many years. At the time of the civil war he was appointed first assistant inspector in the United States Tobacco warehouse, Soon after the close of the civil war he lost the greater part of his large fortune in unfortunate investments in the oil fields. He was a Whig until the formation of the Republican party when he joined its ranks. In religious belief he was a Roman Catholic.

He married (first) _____ Brady, by whom he had children:

1. Michael Fitzgerald, died at the age of forty-six years;
2. Patrick Fitzgerald, died at the age of twenty-four.

He married (second) Mary B. Lee, born in Salisbury, Maryland, 1825, died in 1903. She was the daughter of Charles B. Lee and Catherine (Robeson) Lee, the latter born in Virginia. Charles B. Lee was a native of England, and came to this country prior to his marriage. He lived at Salisbury, Maryland, where he was a farmer and planter, and he served bravely during the Indian wars. The children of Charles B. Lee and Catherine (Robeson) Lee were: Charles Lee, deceased, lived in Chicago; Patrick Lee, deceased, lived in Philadelphia; Mary B. Lee, who married Mr. Fitzgerald; Ann Lee, married _____ Flood; Catherine Lee, married John Hearon; Mary Lee, married _____ Campbell.

Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald had children:

1. William John Fitzgerald, the particular subject of this sketch;
2. Margaret Fitzgerald, now Sister Mary Rose of the Kearney Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts;
3. Mary Fitzgerald, married William Barry, and lives at No. 1414 Harrison street, Franklin, Pennsylvania;
4. Catherine Fitzgerald, died at the age of twenty-one years;
5. Elizabeth Fitzgerald, lived to attain the age of nineteen years.

WILLIAM JOHN FITZGERALD was born at Byberry, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, February 7, 1864. He attended school at his native town, then the private school at Andalusia, and subsequently the Academy School at Holmesburg, Philadelphia. He was about to enter Villanova College, when the financial reverses of his father rendered this proceeding impossible, and Mr. Fitzgerald was obliged to abandon his studies. At this time he was eighteen years of age and he at once went to the home farm and assisted actively in its cultivation for a time. His subsequent business connections were as follows: In the nursery business of Ball Brothers at Holmesburg; gardener for Dr. Caleb Horner at Bryn Mawr, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania; gardener for R. B. Allison for four years; for a short time manager for H. H. Harrison at Glenside, having full charge of the estate; gardener for Colonel A. McClure, at Wallingford; again with Dr. Horner at Bryn Mawr; and since the past five years he has been a salesman for a varnish company. His home is at No. 303 Cricket avenue, Ardmore. He takes an active part in local political affairs, affiliating with the Republican party. His religious connection is with St. Dennis Catholic Church, at Oakmont, Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Temperance A. B. Society, and has never taken alcoholic stimulants. He is a charter member of the I. C. B. U. of Villanova, a Catholic society.

Mr. Fitzgerald married, January 15, 1884, Mary Josephine McCaffrey, born in Dover, Delaware, a daughter of John and Bridget McCaffrey, the former a farmer in his younger years, later superintendent of a section on the Western Maryland Railroad, on which he was injured and died. Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald had children:

1. John Fitzgerald, married Mamie Donnelly, and resides in Media, Delaware county, Pennsylvania;
2. Mary Fitzgerald;
3. A. McClure Fitzgerald;
4. Helen Fitzgerald;
5. Marjorie Fitzgerald.

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