



JAMES FREEBORN (1824-19xx)

Compiled by Richard D. Kerr

[The following is excerpted 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.]

JAMES FREEBORN, a resident of Haverford township, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, comes of sturdy, long lived line of Irish ancestors, his paternal grandfather and grandmother having attained the remarkable age of one hundred and seven and one hundred and eight years respectively. The grandfather, James Freeborn, married twice and was the father of twenty-four children. Among the children of his first union were Thomas, James, William, Andrew, Bridget and Bessie, all of whom attained years of maturity. After the death of his first wife, he married Margaret Spence, who, after the death of her husband came to America and spent the remaining years of her life here.

JAMES FREEBORN, grandson of the James Freeborn before mentioned, and the subject of this sketch, was born in county Donegal, Ireland, in 1824, a son of Andrew and Margaret Freeborn. When only fifteen years of age, young Freeborn came to America, having concluded, like many others of his native land, that in the new world there was greater promise for growth and development than the land of his birth afforded. Arriving here he located in Philadelphia where he was employed at trunk making. For some time, however, he had acknowledged the fact that all his inclinations were urging him to seek the quiet of country life. He therefore relinquished his employment in Philadelphia and engaged at farm work in Haverford township, where it was his purpose to live the rest of his days.

While still a very young man in 1844 Mr. Freeborn assumed the obligations of married life, wedding Miss Jane Watson, who bore him a family of eight children as follows:

1. James Freeborn, who married Josephine Moore, of Marple, Pennsylvania;
2. Isabella Freeborn, wife of Mark Baker, of Middletown, Pennsylvania;
3. Mary Freeborn, deceased;
4. Hannah Freeborn, deceased;
5. Annie Freeborn, wife of Frank Lowrie;
6. Andrew Freeborn, who married Maggie Freeborn;
7. Mordecai Freeborn;
8. Margaret Freeborn.

The mother of the foregoing named children died in April, 1876, and Mr. Freeborn took as his second wife, on November 27, 1879, Ellen Miller, a daughter of Thomas and Sermares (Taylor) Miller. Mr. Freeborn enjoys the respect and good will of his neighbors throughout his section of the country.

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