



Haverford Township Historical Society



ALEXANDER HANLON (1846-1927) ROBERT HANLON (1880-19xx)

Compiled by Richard D. Kerr

[The following is excerpted and adapted from A History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania and Its People, John W. Jordan, editor, published by Lewis Historical Publishing Company, New York in 1914.]

ANDREW HANLON was born in County Donegal, Ireland, and in that country his life was spent. He was a farmer of ability and highly respected in the community. He died in 1880, being about eighty years of age, and his wife died about 1868 at the age of sixty-five years. They had children:

1. Robert Hanlon, now lives in county Waterford, Ireland, where he is the manager of the estate of the Duke of Devonshire, and is a pensioner of the constabulary.
2. Margaret Hanlon, came to the United States with her brother Alexander and married here, in 1876, Richard Wilson, a veteran of the civil war. She is now a widow and lives in county Donegal, Ireland.
3. Alexander Hanlon, see forward.
4. Annie Hanlon, who never married, lives in Ireland.
5. Thomas Hanlon, died while in the discharge of his duties as a local constable in Ireland.
6. Andrew Hanlon, lives on the old homestead in Ireland.
7. George Hanlon, came to America in the year 1882, and died in Philadelphia in 1904. He was employed in a hospital and died from the results of vaccination.

ALEXANDER HANLON is numbered among the native sons of Ireland who in the New World have achieved success in business, demonstrating the opportunities which are afforded here to the young men of energy and enterprise. He was born in County Donegal, Ireland, September 16, 1846, the son of Andrew Hanlon and Jane (Wilson) Hanlon, the latter a daughter of Robert Wilson, a fisherman who lived and died in Killybegs, County Donegal, Ireland. In his native town he pursued his studies in the public schools and spent all his early years on the home farm, materially assisting his father in its cultivation, and in this manner acquiring an experience which was of great benefit to him in later years. In 1866 he emigrated to America, landing at Philadelphia, in which city he made his home at Fifty-fourth and Master streets. For a time he held a position in a Calico Print Works, then ran a small dairy farm on Haverford road near the county line. He sold this in 1875 and went to the State of Illinois, where he settled in Livingston county and was engaged in farming for a period of two years. Removing then to Streeter, in the same state, he was engaged as a teamster for a time, owning his own horses, but traded his stock in trade after a time for real property. During the next six years he was engaged in mining coal but, when the miners commenced joining the unions Mr. Hanlon declined to join, and returned to his farming operations in Livingston county, with which he was occupied until 1888. He then sold this to advantage and in the spring of 1889 returned to Delaware county, Pennsylvania, where he located in Haverford township, and engaged in general and dairy farming. With this he has been identified uninterruptedly since that time. His farm consists of one hundred and nine acres in a fine state of cultivation, a herd of about twenty-five cows of excellent breeds, and he does a wholesale milk business.

Until recently Mr. Hanlon affiliated with the Republican party, now he is a member of the Washington party.

Mr. Hanlon married, March 1, 1873, Mary Jane Love, born in the town of Letterkenny, County Donegal, Ireland, a daughter of Samuel Love and Lizzie (Buchanan) Love. They have had children:

1. Lizzie Hanlon;
2. Andrew Hanlon;
3. Robert Hanlon (see below);
4. Jennie Hanlon;
5. Samuel Hanlon;
6. William Hanlon;
7. George Hanlon.

Mr. Hanlon is a man of kindly nature and benevolent impulses, and his good works have won him the gratitude of many. He is a capable, energetic man, and fulfils the duties which fall to his share with an intelligence and ability that command the approval of all.

ROBERT HANLON, a progressive young dairyman of Delaware county, Pennsylvania, is advancing steadily and consistently to a leading position in his line of business. He is of Irish descent, the ancestral history of his family being given above.

Robert Hanlon was born in Livingston county, Illinois, January 7, 1880, and is a son of Alexander Hanlon and Mary Jane (Love) Hanlon. His education was acquired in the Coopertown school, and his practical training was received on his father's farm and under the personal supervision of the latter. He assisted his father until he had attained his majority, then established himself independently in the milk business, but continued to reside under the paternal roof. In April, 1908, he removed to Oakmont and there purchased a brick house which had just been erected on Belle Meade avenue and Coopertown [now called Darby] road, and has resided there since that period. He has continued in the milk business, having a profitable city route, and is considered one of the rising young business men of the section. He is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and takes a deep interest in whatever concerns the welfare of the community.

Mr. Hanlon married, January 2, 1908, Clara Hannum, born in Coopertown, a daughter of William Hannum. They have no children. While not without that honorable ambition which is so powerful and useful as an incentive to activity in public affairs, Mr. Hanlon regards the pursuits of private life as being in themselves abundantly worthy of his best efforts. Whatever he does is done with all his might, and with a deep sense of conscientious obligation.

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