



JOHN K. HAWTHORNE (1829-19xx)

Compiled by Richard D. Kerr

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

This record deals with the life of a man born across the sea in historic Derry, Ireland, whose long life since his eighteenth year has been passed in Pennsylvania. Born of well-to-do parents, but early orphaned and his patrimony diverted from him, John K. Hawthorne did not lose courage, but boldly sailed for the United States, where from the penniless lad of eighteen he has become the affluent, honored citizen of ripened years. Greater even than his financial success has been the high character he has established for honesty and integrity. Now aged eighty-four years, Mr. Hawthorne is in good health, faculties unimpaired, and rated high in the esteem of the community wherein he has spent so many of those years. To few men in Delaware county has a greater span of years been granted, and to none of equal years has been given greater faculty to enjoy the success won in earlier years.

JOHN K. HAWTHORNE, to whom this record is dedicated, was born of Scotch ancestors, both paternal and maternal, in Londonderry, or county Derry, about nine miles from Londonderry, the capital of that county. He is the son of Robert Hawthorne, who owned a farm in Derry, where his short life of twenty-five years was passed. Robert Hawthorne married Nancy, daughter of William Campbell, a large owner of town and grazing lands. Robert was a son of William Hawthorne, a landowner and farmer of Derry, who had two sons, Robert and John, the former owning a good farm, which he willed to John K. Hawthorne. Robert died in 1834, aged twenty-five years; his wife Nancy, died in 1833. They were the parents of two sons, John K. and Thomas. The latter came to the United States, locating at Elkington, Maryland, where he became a well-to-do farmer and stockraiser. He died in 1855 or 1856.

John K. Hawthorne, eldest son of Robert and Nancy (Campbell) Hawthorne, was born in August, 1829. He was but five years of age when his father died; his mother having died the preceding year. After the death of his father, the lad naturally became the charge of his uncle, John Hawthorne, who took charge of both the lad and the farm left to his eldest son by Robert Hawthorne. The uncle used the property as his own, and denied the real owner, his nephew, even the advantages of an education, although the farm was a profitable one. He was sent to a paid teacher for three winter terms, this being all that was allowed him. The lad endured the life under his uncle until he was eighteen years of age, then he sailed for the United States, glad to get away, even at the sacrifice of the farm left him by his father. On arriving in Philadelphia, John K. was possessed of but six shillings, but he at once found a job. Before the first week ended his employer borrowed his small capital, got drunk and not only did not repay the six shillings, but did not pay him for his week's work. But the lad who did not hesitate to cross the ocean to a strange land, was not to be held down. He obtained a position with Patterson & Hopper, grocers, becoming manager of their store. After six years of hard work and close economy he had saved a small capital, which he invested in a small grocery at No. 514 Fifteenth street, Philadelphia. He there continued in business until 1866, when he erected a store building at No. 2042 Pine street, where he conducted a grocery and provision store, prospered and accumulated a modest fortune. Part of this he

invested in twenty-two and a half acres of land in Haverford township, Delaware county, paying therefor seven thousand five hundred dollars. This property which he yet owns is valued at one hundred and ten thousand dollars, a most wonderful increase in value. After purchasing this property he did not give up business, but continued until 1885, when he sold out and located on his farm in Haverford township. He there has specialized in the breeding of full blooded swine, his imported Berkshires, Red Jerseys and Chester Whites, being known wherever swine breeders are found. He dealt largely, often having on his farm three hundred and fifty of the choicest full blooded animals. He found a ready market for all his stock, the demand in a short time exceeding the number he could supply. While he had the usual supply of other farm animals, Mr. Hawthorne has confined his efforts in breeding entirely to swine and the three strains previously mentioned. He is a Republican in politics and, although reared in the Church of England, is a member of the Presbyterian church, located at Fifteenth and Locust streets, Philadelphia.

Mr. Hawthorne married, June 22, 1848, Jane Knox, born in county Tyrone, Ireland, died at the farm in Delaware county, December 24, 1905, daughter of Samuel Knox and Mary (Sayers) Knox. Her father died a young man, his widow later coming with her children to this country, settling in Philadelphia.

Children of Samuel and Mary Knox:

1. Samuel Knox (2), a contracting bricklayer.
2. Jane Knox, married John K. Hawthorne.
3. Matilda Knox, married John Cayan, a farmer of Haverford township.

Children of John K. Hawthorne and Jane (Knox) Hawthorne:

1. Matilda Hawthorne, born July 12, 1849, died in 1867.
2. William A. Hawthorne, born June 14, 1851, died July 7, 1852.
3. Anna B. Hawthorne, born April 27, 1853, married Charles Manley and resides in Media, Pennsylvania.
4. John C. Hawthorne, born June 22, 1855, now a leading dry goods merchant of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and president of the corporation operating a large store.
5. Jane Hawthorne, born June 1, 1857, married Andrew C. Haines and resides at the corner of Nineteenth street and Erie avenue, Philadelphia.
6. Elizabeth Hawthorne, born June 13, 1859, died November 13, 1871.
7. Mary B. Hawthorne, born September 5, 1861, resides with her father.
8. Charles L. Hawthorne, born December 18, 1863, died July 17, 1865.
9. William A. Hawthorne, born May 8, 1866, resides with his father.
10. Thomas Hawthorne, born May 20, 1869, died 1892, was cashier with the Finley-Acker Company.
11. Catherine Hawthorne, married a Mr. Treadway, a printer, and resides in New Rochelle, New York.

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