



# Haverford Township Historical Society



## WILLIAM H. HERSHEY (1851-19xx) AND FAMILY

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.]*

The Hershey family is one of the most prominent, but one of the oldest families in Pennsylvania, being founded in Lancaster county in 1719, its members in the various generations being noted for their intelligence and morality, integrity of character and trustworthiness, characteristics which they transmitted to their descendants in large degree.

**JOSEPH HERSHEY**, father of William H. Hershey, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, there reared, educated, learned his trade of oak cooper, and married. After leaving the old homestead he first settled in Reading, Pennsylvania, and later removed to Philadelphia, where he died in the year 1860, and he followed his trade in both cities, making a comfortable living for his family, to whom he was devotedly attached. He married Elizabeth Schraeder, who was born in the vicinity of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, died in the year 1903. Both were members of the Presbyterian church, contributing of their time and money to its support. Their children were:

1. William H. Hershey, of whom further;
2. Jennie Hershey, resides with her brother;
3. Sally Hershey, twin of Jennie, died unmarried;
4. Emma Hershey, died in infancy;
5. Julia Hershey, died at the age of twenty years.

**WILLIAM H. HERSHEY** is an influential citizen of Oakmont, Delaware count, Pennsylvania, enterprising and public-spirited, giving his support to all measures calculated to advance the moral and material welfare of the community. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 1, 1851. He was educated in the public schools of his native city, and after completing his studies served an apprenticeship at the trade of painter, working as journeyman at the same for some time, gaining additional knowledge and experience, and subsequently became a general contractor in the painting business, employing on an average from three to five men. He takes a keen interest in his work, giving to every detail his personal supervision, and thus retains the extensive patronage which has come to him as the result of conscientious and faithful effort to meet the requirements and wishes of his many patrons. Prior to his removal to Eagle Road, Oakmont, Delaware county, he resided in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he was highly esteemed. He holds membership in Grace Chapel, a union church; in Potter Lodge, No. 441, Free and Accepted Masons; Improved Order of Red Men; the Order of Artisans, of Philadelphia, and Tabor Benefit Society. He is a staunch adherent of the principles of the Republican party, to whom he gave his allegiance upon attaining his majority.

Mr. Hershey married (first) Lydia Cassidy, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, daughter of Alexander and Mary Cassidy. She died in 1880, in childbirth. He married (second) September 17, 1888, Mary

McElroy, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, daughter of Philip and Mary McElroy. They have no children, but their great kindness of heart prompted them to give a home to a niece, Ethel H. Seeberger, now the wife of Melvin Detwiler, who well repaid them for the love and care bestowed upon her. Mr. and Mrs. Hershey are highly thought of in the community, they leading quiet, retired lives, exerting an influence for good upon all with whom they come in contact.

*[The following is excerpted from the "Delaware County Daily Times," Chester, Pennsylvania, Thursday, February 11, 1909.]*

A new church is to be established at Grassland [now called Oakmont], Haverford township, Delaware county. A petition has been presented to the court of Delaware county for a charter for the church organization to be known as "Grace chapel." A copy of the proposed charter was placed on file in the office of Prothonotary Andrew J. Dalton at Media, but the decree has not yet been made by the court. William Taylor, Esq., of Media, is attorney for the petitioners. The chapel will be undenominational and of an Orthodox evangelical character. Those who have started the movement believe that much good can be done by the chapel among people no matter what denomination they have previously been connected with. Grassland is situated near the West Chester pike and near the line of the Philadelphia & West Chester Traction Company. During the past two years it has grown considerably and the prospects for the future are bright, and it is expected that the attendance at the meetings will be good as there are good transportation facilities in that section. The officers elected for the first year are: President, Norris Hansell; vice president, W. Harry Roberts; secretary, Albert P Grubb; treasurer, William H. Hershey; trustees: Harry C. Vickers, W. Harry Roberts, D. Frank Barr, Rudolph C. Lukens, William H. Hershey, Norris Hansell, Warner White and Herbert S. Hansell.

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