



# Haverford Township Historical Society



## WILLIAM PATTERSON LAWRENCE (1856-19xx) AND FAMILY

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 is an age when energies are directed, in special lines of work. The man in commercial, professional or industrial life, after gaining a varied knowledge of the basic principles of the calling to which he has consecrated his time, afterward gives his thought and effort to perfecting himself in his chosen department, thereby gaining a proficiency and prominence which he could otherwise not attain if his labors were spread over a wider field. It is by following this plan that **WILLIAM PATTERSON LAWRENCE**, of Newtown Square, Haverford township, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, has achieved his present prominence and success.

His grandfather was born in Germany and emigrated to America, settling in Delaware county where Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, is now located. He and his wife, Amelia, were Methodists, and among their children were Haines Lawrence and Amelia Lawrence, who married \_\_\_\_\_ Howell.

**HAINES LAWRENCE**, son of \_\_\_\_\_ Lawrence and Amelia Lawrence, was born in Germany in 1820, and died in September, 1894. He was engaged in farming throughout the active years of his life. He married Elizabeth Irwin, born in Scotland in 1837, and still enjoying good health. She was the daughter of Robert Irwin, three of whose children were born in Scotland, of which country he was also a native, the others being born here. He settled at Fernwood, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, where he was a farmer. His children: Elizabeth Irwin, mentioned above; Robert Irwin, deceased, a cattle dealer; John Irwin, died in young manhood; Mary Irwin, married \_\_\_\_\_ Hawley; Sarah Irwin, married William Patterson; Margaret Irwin, married David Rogers; Belle Irwin, married Alexander Davis, deceased.

Haines Lawrence and Elizabeth (Irwin) Lawrence had children:

Elwood Lawrence, an engineer, who lives in Media, Delaware county;  
Robert Lawrence, lives in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania;  
William Patterson Lawrence, of whom further;  
Harry Lawrence, who is a widower, lives with William Patterson Lawrence;  
Margaret Lawrence, married Harry Pierce and lives in Philadelphia;  
May Lawrence, married George Kelly, and lives in West Philadelphia.

**WILLIAM PATTERSON LAWRENCE** was born near Eagle Hotel, Haverford township, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, February 26, 1856. His education was acquired in the public schools of his native township, which he attended until he had attained the age of fifteen years, at which time he went to live with an old Quaker lady, Elvira Leedom, assisting her in taking care of her place and at the same time working in Leedom's saw mill. He then lived with an old Quaker by the named George Dickinson, on Cobbs Creek, Haverford township, and had charge of the saw mill there and the lumbering until the death of Mr. Dickinson. He then operated the mill on his own account for a period of seven years, after

which the Philadelphia and Western railroad was constructed and they utilized the site of the mill for a power house. In 1908 Mr. Lawrence bought a part of the old Dickinson homestead and the house which stood upon it, and he still lives in this at the present time. While the railroad was being built, he assisted in its construction by taking charge of a part of the teaming work. Five years ago he concentrated his energies in another field of work, and it has proved a very profitable one. He has devoted his time and attention to the breeding and fattening of hogs for the market, and generally has a herd of at least three hundred on hand. He has proved himself an excellent man of business, and is in very prosperous circumstances. In national political affairs he gives his support to the Republican party, but in local matters he prefers to vote independently.

Mr. Lawrence married, November 8, 1900, Emma R. Leech, born in Marple township, January 30, 1866. Children: Albert Lawrence, born September 8, 1902; and Owen Dickinson Lawrence, born in August, 1904.

Mrs. Lawrence is the daughter of John Leech and Mary (Briggs) Leech. John Leech was born at Kingsessing, Philadelphia, 1832, died in January, 1910. He was the son of John Leech and Catherine (Gall) Leech, of Dutch descent, the name being originally Latch, and had brothers and sisters as follows: Isaac Leech, lives in Morton, Pennsylvania; William Leech, lives in Philadelphia; Charles Leech, lives in Clarion county, Pennsylvania; Sarah Leech, married a Mr. Litzenburg; Almira Leech, married Lewis Panquest; Harriet Leech, married William Sidihotton; Catherine W. Leech, deceased, married Samuel Wanamaker, brother of the well known merchant and statesman, John Wanamaker; George Leech, deceased; Harry Leech, deceased; Ellen Leach, deceased; and Elizabeth Leech, deceased.

The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Lawrence lived in Media, Pennsylvania, he being English and she a Quaker, their names being respectively William Briggs and Hannah Briggs, and they had children: Isaac Briggs, a retired farmer of Media, Delaware county, Pennsylvania; William Briggs, lives in Marple township; Mary Briggs, who married John Leech, mentioned above; Rachel Briggs, married Thomas McClure, lives in Upper Providence; Richard Briggs, lives in Indiana; Sarah Briggs, married John Braddon; Hannah Briggs, married Lorenzo Farrer; and Amy Briggs, died young.

John Leech and Mary (Briggs) Leech had children: Emma R. Leech, who married Mr. Lawrence; William, a carpenter and builder in Llanerch, Delaware county, Pennsylvania; Susannah Leech, married Joshua Bowen, a steam shovel operator, and resides in Bucks county, Pennsylvania; Isaac Leech, died in infancy; Richard Jones Leech, unmarried, lives with his mother in Marple township.

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