



Haverford Township Historical Society



JOHN LINDSAY (1773-1860) **JOHN C. LINDSAY (1817-1898)** **GEORGE BROOKE LINDSAY (1852-1918)**

Compiled by Richard D. Kerr

[The following is excerpted and adapted from Biographical and Historical Cyclopedia of Delaware County, Pennsylvania by Samuel T. Wiley and Winfield Scott Garner, published by Gresham Publishing Company in Richmond, Indiana and New York in 1894.]

The Lindsays are of Scotch-Irish origin, and their residence in Pennsylvania predates the arrival of William Penn in the colony. Soon after landing in this country the first representative of the family settled at what is now known as Aston, this county, and for more than two hundred years members of the family have been residents of territory now included in the bounds of Delaware county.

Hon. **JOHN LINDSAY**, paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born and raised at Haverford, this county, and was a prominent and prosperous farmer of that township for many years. In 1830 and again in 1831 he represented Delaware county in the State legislature. Politically he was an old line Whig, and in religion a strict Presbyterian. He died at his home in Haverford in 1860, aged eighty-eight years. His wife's maiden name was Sarah Brooke, and they reared a family of seven children, one of whom was John C. Lindsay [see below], who was born on the old homestead in Haverford township in 1817. Sarah Brooke was a daughter of Gen. William Brooke, of this county, who won distinction in the Revolutionary war. The Brooke family was transplanted from England to America early in the seventeenth century, and several of its members served as officers and soldiers in the war of 1812.

His son, **JOHN C. LINDSAY**, after attaining manhood, engaged in farming, and resided in Nether Providence township from 1863 to 1885, when he removed to the city of Chester and retired from active business. During his active years his farming operations were conducted on an extensive scale and he became quite prosperous, He is a democrat in politics, and like his father a consistent member of the Presbyterian church. He married Catharine A. Black, a daughter of William V. Black and a native of this county. To them was born a family of six children, four sons and two daughters:

1. William R. Lindsay,
2. John Lindsay,
3. George B. Lindsay [see below],
4. J. Walter Lindsay,
5. Laura Lindsay,
6. Maria B. Lindsay

Mrs. Lindsay is a member of the same church as her husband, and is now in the seventieth year of her age. Her father, William V. Black (maternal grandfather), was a native of Delaware county, and a widely known and influential citizen, who was engaged in agricultural pursuits for a time, and later became a

merchant in Philadelphia and at Media, this county. He was one of the directors in the First National bank of Media, and died in 1883, aged eighty-two years.

GEORGE BROOKE LINDSAY, one of the leading members of the Delaware county bar, who is also prominent in local politics and in the business circles of the county, is a son of John C. and Catharine A. (Black) Lindsay, and a native of Haverford township, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, where he was born August 5, 1852. He was reared partly on the farm in Nether Providence township and partly in the city of Chester. His preliminary instruction was obtained in the public schools of this county, and later he studied for some time in a private school taught by Rev. James W. Dale, and finished his education by a course in Professor Gilbert's academy in this city. From early years he had felt an inclination toward the legal profession, and soon after completing his English education he began the study of law in the office of Ward & Broomall, that was afterward dissolved to seat one of its members on the bench and send the other to the halls of Congress. Having passed the usual examinations, Mr. Lindsay was duly admitted to the bar of Delaware county in 1874, being the first attorney to register under Judge T. J. Clayton. In 1878 he was admitted to practice in the supreme court of Pennsylvania, and in 1880 to all the courts of Philadelphia and of Chester county. His practice is principally in the civil courts, where he does an extensive business for corporations and on the law side of the calendar. He stands high among his professional associates, has a lucrative clientage, and enjoys in a marked degree the confidence and esteem of the general public. Mr. Lindsay has acted as trustee for many large estates, has held a number of offices of a fiduciary nature, and is attorney for several large corporations in other States. In 1886 he tried a case before a jury of expert mechanical engineers in Cincinnati, Ohio, in which he secured a verdict against that city for fifty thousand dollars.

Politically George Brooke Lindsay is an active and influential republican, has served as solicitor for the borough of North and South Chester, and as president of the Veteran Republican club of this city. Mr. Lindsay is one of the directors of the Chester National bank, and is connected in like manner with the Chester Union Railway Company and the Chester & Media Electric Railway Company. He is also secretary of the Chester free library and treasurer of the Law Library association of the Delaware county bar.

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