



# Haverford Township Historical Society



## WILLIAM JOHN MARTIN (1824-1860) AND FAMILY

Compiled by Richard D. Kerr

*[The following is largely excerpted from Biographical Annals of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Elwood Roberts (editor), T. S. Benham and Company and the Lewis Publishing Company, 1904. Supplemental information comes from "A Sesquicentennial History of Saint Denis Parish" by Joseph P. Barrett, Saint Denis Church, 1975. Additional explanatory notes are in square brackets.]*

**WILLIAM J. MARTIN** ["Dr." per Barrett], for many years an active and prominent citizen of West Haverford, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, was born in London Derry, Ireland, in 1824, and died June 13, 1860. He acquired a practical education at the national schools of his native country, and when a youth of seventeen years [about 1841] emigrated to the United States, he being of the same opinion as many other young men that the opportunities for business success were greater there than in the country of their birth. Upon attaining his majority he engaged in the shipping business, running merchant vessels, trading between this country and the West India islands, making the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, his business center. In 1856 he removed from Philadelphia to West Haverford, taking up his residence at the old Revolutionary hostelry known as the "Old Buck," at which place he died. [The Buck Tavern and part of the "West Haverford" area were in Haverford Township, Delaware County.]

William J. Martin was united in marriage to **ANNA M. KELLY** [Ann Margaret Kelly, born May 10, 1824, died November 21, 1896, per Barrett], daughter of **Dennis Kelly** and **Mary (Boyle) Kelly**, and the following named children were born to them:

1. **HENRY D. MARTIN**, born March 21, 1853, in Philadelphia, near Eighteenth and Cherry streets. He acquired his early education in the private school of Professor Roth, located at Broad and Pine streets; he then attended Villa Nova College, at Villa Nova, Pennsylvania, for about one year, and this was supplemented by a full course in one of the commercial colleges in Philadelphia. He then entered the commercial world, serving almost constantly in the capacity of traveling passenger agent for railroads. For a number of years he served as the Philadelphia representative of the Atchison, Topeka & Sante Fe Railroad, after which he traveled for the Old Colony Railroad, and subsequently became manager, in Philadelphia, for the Union Steamship Advertising Company. He was a consistent member of the Bryn Mawr Catholic church, where he worshipped regularly, was a member of the Merion Cricket Club, and in politics was an independent Republican. His death occurred at Atlantic City, New Jersey, August 5, 1903.

2. **WILLIAM J. MARTIN**, born June 24, 1854, died February 21, 1884.

3. **DENNIS CHARLES** [Barrett adds an additional middle name **BORROMEO** here] **MARTIN**, born September 13 (Roberts also states the 14th), 1856. He received his early educational training at a private school situated at Haverford, and this was supplemented by a course at Mount St. Mary College, located at Emmitsburg, Maryland. Shortly after the completion of his studies he accepted a clerical position, and later he assisted in engineering in both Delaware and Montgomery counties, after which he retired from active business pursuits. He is now living privately on the old homestead in Bryn Mawr [the former

Buck Tavern], the house in which he resides having been erected in 1739 by the Miller estate, an addition being placed to the property in 1780 by the same family. In the early years of 1700 and up to and including the year 1845, this old property was used as a public hostelry known as the Old Buck Hotel, which name it retained until its purchase by Dennis Kelly, Sr., and it is still in the possession of the family. During the Revolutionary war, just previous to the troops going to Valley Forge, a letter, which is on record, shows that General Washington wrote to Philadelphia requesting the government to furnish the soldiers with blankets, they being then on their way to camp. At that time General Washington was making the old hostelry his headquarters. Dennis C. Martin was united in marriage to **MARY ELIZABETH LEARY**, daughter of **Daniel Leary** and **Elizabeth (Duane) Leary**, and their children are: **William J. Martin**, born September 23, 1901, died August 29, 1902; and **Marie Gertrude Martin**, born January 7, 1904 [per Barrett, her name was Mary and she married a man named Glover].

4. **MARY E. MARTIN**, born September 15, 1858; she was educated at Sharon Convent, Sharon Hill, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, and she resided with her parents up to the time of their demise. Since the death of her mother she has held and filled the position of Sacristan of the order of Mother of Good Counsel, of the Church of Our Mother of Good Counsel, of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. For many years she has been actively connected and interested in the church and charitable work belonging to the parish, and is much respected and esteemed by all who know her.

5. **ANNA M. MARTIN**, born November 30, 1859, died July 6, 1896.

[According to Barrett, Ann M. (Kelly) Martin later moved from the old Buck Tavern and built a home called "White House" nearby at Panmure Road and Old Buck Road. This is now the Main Line Art Center, 746 Panmure Road. According to the Main Line Art Center website, the Martin "White House" was built in 1868.]

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