



Haverford Township Historical Society



ABRAHAM L. PENNOCK (1786-1868) AND FAMILY

Compiled by Richard D. Kerr

[The following is excerpted and adapted from Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of Chester and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania, by Gilbert Cope and Henry Graham Ashmead, published by The Lewis Company, New York and Chicago in 1904.]

[The Pennock family is well known in Upper Darby history. The following excerpts relate to Haverford Township.]

ABRAHAM L. PENNOCK, son of George Pennock, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 8 mo., 7, 1786. For thirty years he resided in that city, engaged in business first as a dry goods merchant, the firm being Pennock & Robbins, and afterwards in the wire business of the firm of Sellers & Pennock. Here he was the originator of the riveted hose, the superiority of which over the sewed enabled the firm to bring it into universal use, and caused the United States government to enter its contract with them for the making of all mail bags used in its service. In 1840 he retired from business and moved to Haverford township. Subsequently he undertook the care of a number of estates. The exercise of his accustomed foresight and good judgment gained for him the love and approbation of those for whom he labored. In the fall of 1845 he moved to Upper Darby township, where he remained until his death, 5 mo., 12, 1868.

To Abraham L. Pennock and Elizabeth (Sellers) Pennock were born the following named children:

1. George Pennock,
2. Mary C. Pennock,
3. John S. Pennock,
4. Joseph I. Pennock,
5. Sarah Pennock,
6. Ann Pennock,
7. Casper Pennock,
8. Abraham L. Pennock, (see below),
9. Isabella Pennock.

ABRAHAM L. PENNOCK, fifth son of Abraham L. and Elizabeth (Sellers) Pennock, first married Abbie Jane Aldrich, by whom he had four children:

1. Herbert Pennock,
2. Caspar Pennock, (see below)
3. Charles Earl Pennock, deceased,
4. George L. Pennock.

CASPAR PENNOCK, second son of Abraham L. Pennock and Abbie Jane (Aldrich) Pennock, was born in Haverford, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, February 2, 1855. He was educated principally at the Friends' Select School in Philadelphia, and the institution at Westtown taught by David Reese. At this time his

father was engaged in the nursery business, including the hothouse cultivation of plants and flowers on the West Chester road, and as soon as Caspar left school he became an assistant in the establishment. Under his father's skillful tutelage he mastered the business of Agriculture in all its details, and after the former's retirement in 1893 he took entire charge. Previous to this time, however, the nursery feature had been abandoned with a view to paying all attention to the cultivation of roses. Caspar Pennock conducted the business alone until 1898, when he formed a partnership with his brother George L., and since then the firm name has been C. & G. L. Pennock. They make a specialty of the cultivation of roses, and send the entire product to their brother Samuel, who is conducting a wholesale business in Philadelphia. Experts say that the Pennock Brothers have one of the best equipped plants of this kind in the country. At present they have more than two acres of ground under glass, and contemplate an addition which will double their space. The heating plant, which is of the best modern construction, consists of three large steam boilers, with an aggregate capacity of two hundred horse power, The ventilating plant, so indispensable an adjunct of such an establishment, is also the best that can be devised, and equal to any demands made upon it for air distribution through the various conservatories. The output of the firm is eagerly sought after by all the dealers, and readily commands the highest market prices; and it is needless to add that as the demand for flowers in the large cities is very great, the Pennock Brothers have been conducting a profitable and constantly increasing business. Mr. Pennock devotes the greater part of his time and attention to his extensive and exacting business, in which he is regarded as an expert, and one of the most successful propagators in the state. Mr. Pennock married Hannah B. Levis, daughter of J. Harrison and Sarah Crozer (Longstreth) Levis, by whom he has two children:

1. Laura Aldrich Pennock,
2. Sarah Frances Pennock.

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