



Haverford Township Historical Society



EDWARD W. PRATT (1861-19xx)

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.]

Gifts of money to a city may be used in its adornment and add to its beauty and attractiveness; but the man who founds and keeps in successful operation extensive business interests, wherein are employed many people, does much more for the substantial development and permanent progress of the city than he whose generosity is manifested in the other way. Commercial activity is the life of a community, and those who are at the head of activities of this sort are to be considered in the light of general benefactors. Edward W. Pratt, of Manoa, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, is a man of this caliber. His grandparents were natives of Germany, and when they emigrated to this country they located in Philadelphia, making their home where the wheel pump is now to be found in Germantown. They had children:

1. Martha Pratt, married and lives in Philadelphia;
2. Charles Pratt, see forward;
3. George Pratt, deceased, was a blacksmith in Norristown, Pennsylvania;
4. William Pratt, deceased, was a farmer;
5. a daughter, now deceased.

CHARLES PRATT, son of the preceding, was born in Philadelphia in 1828, and died in November, 1910. In his early life he was a stove molder, being in the employ of the McDowell & Leiburgs Stove Works, and subsequently became a teamster. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church. He married Rose Kaltenthaler, born in Rochester, New York, 1827, died in August, 1904. She was the daughter of Jacob Kaltenthaler, who was shipwrecked on his way to America, off the coast of New Jersey, and later made his home in Rochester. He was a tanner by occupation, and when he located in Philadelphia he established a tannery at Fifth street and Cohatsan creek. He had lost the greater part of his fortune in the shipwreck and was obliged to take a partner who could provide the necessary funds to carry on the business. He invented the process for making patent leather, but his partner, taking advantage of the fact that Mr. Kaltenthaler was without means, defrauded him of the honor and profits of this invention. He had been a soldier in Napoleon's army for many years; was a member of his body guard at the time of his marriage to Marie Louise, and was with him in the Moscow campaign. Although he was by birth a German he had spent many years in France, and it was from that country that he came to America. He married and had children:

1. Frederick Kaltenthaler, deceased, was a molder;
2. Louise Kaltenthaler, married (first) _____ Mann, (second) _____ Shondig;
3. Jacob Kaltenthaler, deceased, was a tanner in St. Louis, Missouri, being the first man to establish a tannery west of the Mississippi river;
4. Susan Kaltenthaler, married William Esthonocho;
5. Rose Kaltenthaler, who married Mr. Charles Pratt;

6. William Kaltenthaler, deceased; and several children who died young.

Charles Pratt and Rose (Kaltenthaler) Pratt had children:

1. Charles Pratt, deceased;
2. Jacob Pratt, deceased;
3. William Pratt, a farmer, resides at Willistown, Chester county, Pennsylvania;
4. Edward W. Pratt, whose name heads this sketch [see below];
5. Anna L. Pratt, unmarried, lives at Bryn Mawr, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania.

EDWARD W. PRATT, son of Charles Pratt and Rose (Kaltenthaler) Pratt, was born at the corner of Montgomery avenue and Belgrade street, Philadelphia, September 22, 1861. Attending the public schools of his native city, he proved so apt a scholar that he held second in rank of all who entered the high school in his class. Upon leaving this institution he matriculated at the University of Pennsylvania, which, however, he left at the end of five months in order to engage in the more active work of life. He and his brother established themselves in the express business and transfer agency at Bryn Mawr, their concern doing business under the title of Pratt's Express. For thirty years Mr. Pratt was actively identified with this. In 1905 he removed to Manoa, Haverford township, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, which he had selected as a place of residence. He sold his business interests at Bryn Mawr, intending to lead a quiet and retired life, but he was too active a man to be contented with this. It was no very long time before he again established himself in business, this time opening an express and transfer office at No.9 South Third street, Philadelphia, where he is still doing an extensive business. His fraternal affiliations are with the Improved Order of Red Men and the American Mechanics.

Mr. Pratt married, September 20, 1904, Mabel D. Gray, born in Philadelphia, of German descent.
Children:

1. Anna L. Pratt, born August 6, 1907;
2. Wilma Pratt, born January 30, 1913.

Mr. Pratt is entirely free from ostentation, a true American citizen, loyal to his country, his church and his friends. He is of a generous and sympathetic nature, and is ever ready with advice and material aid whenever there is any question of a charitable project.

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