



# Haverford Township Historical Society



## JOHN RIGNEY (1818-1903)

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.]*

One of the best general farmers in the history of Delaware county, Pennsylvania, one who was considered an authority by all the farmers in his vicinity, was the late John Rigney, whose farm was located near Coopertown. He was of Irish birth, his parents being Richard Rigney and Catherine Rigney, both natives of Ireland, where their lives were spent. The father was a fruit grower near the city of Dublin and marketed his product in that city. He had three sons and one daughter, of whom Patrick and John came to America. Patrick, who settled on a farm in Wisconsin, died there at a ripe old age.

**JOHN RIGNEY** was born in Balbriggan, county Dublin, Ireland, June 13, 1818, and died in Delaware county, Pennsylvania, March 31, 1903. His education was the usual one of a farmer's son of that period, and was acquired in the common schools of his section. He labored as an assistant to his father until he was more than thirty years of age, then decided to emigrate to America, as conditions were not satisfactory in his mother country. He arrived at Philadelphia, and from there went to Haverford township, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, where he rented a farm and engaged in general farming. He cultivated this so successfully that in the course of time he had amassed a sufficient capital to purchase a farm of his own. This was located near Coopertown and he was busied with its cultivation until his death. It consisted of twenty-two acres, and he was a pioneer in the field of intensive cultivation. Everything he did was done in a systematic and scientific manner, and the results he achieved fully justified his methods. He gave his political support to the Democratic party, and his religious affiliation was with the Catholic church. Mr. Rigney married Mary Travis, born in Philadelphia, a daughter of John Travis, and she died July 25, 1898. Children:

1. Catharine Eulalia Rigney, lives in West Philadelphia;
2. Mary Ella Rigney, married John C. French, and has had ten children of whom seven are now living;
3. Sarah Louise Rigney, married Patrick J. Kelly, and lives in Llanerch, Pennsylvania; they have had ten children, of whom nine are now living.

Mr. Rigney was known as a man of unswerving integrity in all the relations of life, and this may be said to have been the keynote of a character which ever appealed strongly to the confidence and esteem of all with whom he came in contact.

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