



Haverford Township Historical Society



WILLIAM JAMES ROBERTS (1867-19xx) AND FAMILY

Compiled by Richard D. Kerr

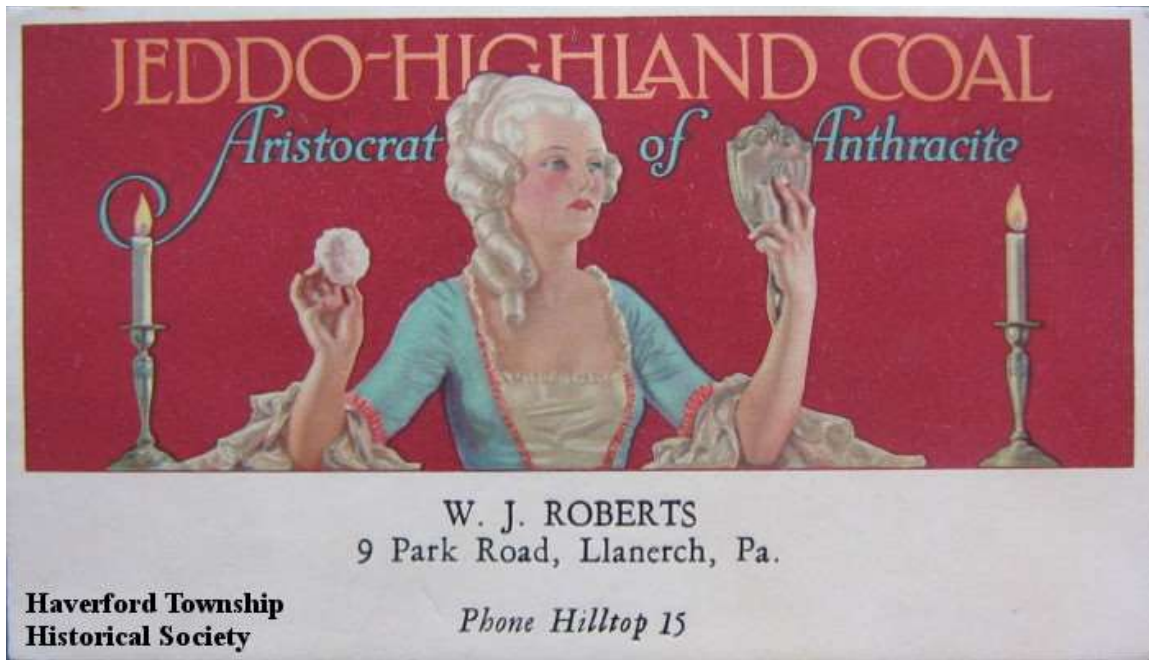
[The following is excerpted from A History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania and Its People, John W. Jordan, editor, published by Lewis Historical Publishing Company, New York in 1914.]

It is a pleasing task to outline the lives of those who have come to our shores from other countries and have contributed in such marked degree to the prosperity which reigns over this land. The pride of America is in her selfmade men, and in return for the opportunities she offers she receives the loyal support of those who have found homes and protection under the starry emblem of the republic. It is of people of this class, the Roberts family of Llanerch, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, that this review treats.

(I) JAMES ROBERTS was born in England, and came to this country as a child with his parents. At first they settled in Valley Forge, Chester county, Pennsylvania, and after his marriage, he made his home in Berks county, in the same state. His death occurred in 1909. He was a miner by occupation, and he and his wife were members of the Episcopal church. He married Alice Tridgeon, also born in England, and brought to this country by her parents while she was still a child. She also lived in Valley Forge, where they were married. They had children:

1. Thomas Roberts, who died in Chester county, in early childhood;
2. Rebecca Roberts, married Joseph Lain and lives in Chester county;
3. Mary Roberts, married Ora Painter;
4. William James Roberts, see forward;
5. Richard Roberts, born in Chester county, is a stone cutter by trade;
6. a child who died;
7. Philip Roberts, died in infancy;
8. Philip Roberts, died at the age of eighteen years.

(II) WILLIAM JAMES ROBERTS, son of James Roberts and Alice (Tridgeon) Roberts, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, November 14, 1867. He was educated in the public schools of his district and at a suitable age commenced his business career. He was apprenticed to learn the trade of stone cutting, but not finding this to his liking, abandoned it in favor of mining in association with his father, and was thus occupied until 1893. On May 26, 1893, he came to Llanerch, as superintendent of the Llanerch Real Estate Company, which was then engaged in cutting up the Llanerch district into building plots and streets. He was an important factor in the laying out of the town and became the owner of a large amount of real property. He continued in office as superintendent of this company until about 1910. In the meantime, about 1904, he had embarked in the general contracting business, and later added the sale of coal and building materials on the West Chester road in Llanerch. This was but a few of various enterprises with which he was connected. He is the proprietor of a boarding stable for horses, and has added a dray business in order to undertake heavy hauling as well as express business. He has twelve men and a number of teams constantly in his employ and is one of the most prominent citizens of the town. His political affiliations are with the Republican party. Mr. Roberts is unmarried.



W. J. Roberts advertising ink blotter for coal, from early 1900s; note two-digit telephone number.

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