



Haverford Township Historical Society



GEORGE STRAIN (1859-after 1940) 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.]

Among those of foreign birth who have become well known in business circles in Ardmore, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, is **GEORGE STRAIN**, now living retired from business cares. His success in all his undertakings has been so marked that it must be of interest to others. He has based his business principles and actions upon strict adherence to the rules which govern industry, economy and unswerving integrity. His enterprise and progressive spirit have made him a typical American in every sense of the word, and he well deserves mention in a volume treating of the business life and substantial development of Ardmore. What he is today he has made himself, for he began in the business world with nothing but his own energy and willing hands to aid him. By constant exertion, associated with good judgment, he has raised himself to the position he now holds, having the friendship of many and the respect of all who know him.

His grandfather, **CHARLES STRAIN**, lived and died in county Donegal, Ireland, where he and his family were members of the Roman Catholic church. He married Sarah Hagerty. Children:

1. Mary Strain, died in Ireland;
2. Annie Strain, married _____ Herold, lives in Ireland;
3. Sarah Strain, died in Ireland;
4. Catherine Strain, married _____ McManegal, lives in Ireland;
5. Hannah Strain, died in Ireland;
6. Rose Strain, died unmarried in New York;
7. Bridget Strain, married _____ Slavin, lives in Ireland;
8. John Strain, see forward;
9. 10. & 11. Charles, Hugh and William Strain, died in Ireland.

JOHN STRAIN, son of Charles Strain and Sarah (Hagerty) Strain, was born in county Donegal, Ireland, 1829, and died in 1913. He was an excellent farmer, owning his own farm, and lived a quiet, retired life. He married Rose McGrannaghan, born in county Donegal, Ireland, daughter of George and Catherine (Evans) McGrannaghan, whose other children were: James McGrannaghan, died in Pennsylvania; George McGrannaghan, died in Ireland; Catherine and Margaret McGrannaghan, died in Pennsylvania; Letitia McGrannaghan, who is a sister in St. Joseph's Convent, Utica, New York; Hannah McGrannaghan, died in Pennsylvania; Mary McGrannaghan, married Charles McMonigal, and is living in Philadelphia.

John Strain and Rose (McGrannaghan) Strain had children:

1. Charles Strain, died in Ardmore, Pennsylvania;
2. George Strain, see forward;
3. Hugh Strain, lives in Germantown, Pennsylvania;

4. James Strain, an iron worker in a wagon factory, lives in West Philadelphia;
5. John Strain, lives in Ireland;
6. Francis Strain, a chauffeur in Philadelphia;
7. Sarah Strain, married Francis Seiferd, now deceased, resides in Ardmore;
8. Mary Strain, is unmarried, and lives in Ireland.

GEORGE STRAIN, son of John Strain and Rose (McGrannaghan) Strain, was born in county Donegal, Ireland, September 15, 1859. He acquired his education in the national schools of his native country, leaving them at the age of thirteen years, when he commenced to be an active assistant to his father on the home farm. In his twentieth year he emigrated to America, having come to the conclusion that there were better opportunities for advancement to a young man of energy and ambition. Results have proved the wisdom of this course of action. Arriving in Philadelphia alone, he commenced working as a gardener at Germantown, and followed that occupation for a period of eighteen years. By this time he had amassed a considerable capital, and determined to establish himself in the dairy business, with which he was connected for twenty years, retiring in the spring of 1913. He built a home for himself and family in 1910, directly on the county line in Ardmore, Haverford township, Delaware county, Pennsylvania. His political affiliations are with the Democratic party, while his religious adherence is given to St. Denis' Catholic Church. He is a member of the T. B. A. Society of the Catholic church, and of the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Strain married at Villanova, Pennsylvania, Rev. Father Joseph Locke officiating, April 26, 1887, Catherine Gallagher, born in Ardmore, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, daughter of Patrick and Margaret (McGillighan) Gallagher; the former died October 10, 1894, at the age of sixty-nine years, the latter died March 31, 1900, at the age of eighty years. Mr. and Mrs. Strain have had children:

1. John Strain, born May 9, 1888;
2. Margaret Strain, August 8, 1889, married James Burlington [or Burns] and resides in Bryn Mawr;
3. George Strain Jr., September 12, 1890, died January 22, 1905;
4. Frances Strain, August 31, 1892;
5. Mary G. Strain, September 15, 1894 [she married a Nunan];
6. Patrick Leo Strain, March 18, 1899.

Mr. Strain is a broad-minded man, of strong character, kindly disposition and is esteemed by all. He is ever ready to lend his influence and support to any cause operating for the good of society.

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