



# Haverford Township Historical Society



## OLIVER TRILL (1864-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.]

In the business and social life of Ardmore, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, the figure of **OLIVER TRILL** has been a prominent one for many years, and to his discretion, foresight and superior ability is due the splendid success which has crowned his efforts. He has never sought honors of a political or public nature of any kind, but his example is probably of more benefit to the majority of mankind by force of true merit, than that of heroes, statesmen and warriors. In addition to his business interests his energies have long been devoted to plans for the furtherance of enterprises which have had for their object the uplifting of mankind in general. Honorable in business, loyal in citizenship, charitable in thought, his life is the highest type of Christian manhood.

His grandparents on both sides lived and died in England. One uncle, **JOHN TRILL**, served with honor in the British army. His father, **EDWIN TRILL**, was born at Epsom, county Surrey, England, 1834, and died in 1893. His entire life was spent in Brighton, England, where he also learned his trade of printing. He established himself in business independently at the age of eighteen years, and edited and published the *Brighton Dolphin*, the leading newspaper of the town. The public affairs of the town engaged a large share of his time and attention, and he served for a considerable length of time as a member of the city council. In 1891 he retired from active business life. He married Elizabeth Farrar, born in Brighton, England, 1831, died in 1888, a grand-niece of the celebrated Rev. Farrar, archbishop of Canterbury. They had children:

1. Henry James Trill, deceased, was associated with his father under the firm name of Trill & Sons;
2. Clara Trill, deceased, married James Batton, superintendent of Guy's Hospital, London, England;
3. Edwin Trill, a solicitor of Brighton, England;
4. Charles Trill, deceased, was also a member of the firm of Trill & Sons;
5. Oliver Trill, of whom further;
6. Grace Trill, married and lives in England;
7. Harold Trill, senior councilman of St. Pancras district, the largest ward of London, England, is now in line for the office of lord mayor of the city of London;
8. Florence Trill, lives in London with Harold.

**OLIVER TRILL** was born in Brighton, county Sussex, England, April 6, 1864. He attended private schools in his native town until he was twelve years of age, when he commenced to learn the art of architectural drafting, under the preceptorship of George Griffith, of Scarborough, with whom he was associated for a period of five years. In 1881 he joined the English army, being with the Fifteenth Hussars seven years, when he was honorably discharged, with the rank of sergeant-major, the highest non-commissioned office in the army. For some time he had been considering the idea of emigrating to America, thinking that the new world offered better opportunities for an ambitious young man than the old. Accordingly, in 1888, he took passage for the United States, and was landed at New York. Six weeks were spent in

that city, after which he went to Philadelphia, and for a period of five years was occupied in real estate affairs, principally with the purchase and sale of houses. Thirteen years were then spent in the insurance business in Philadelphia, and he then became identified with carpentering and building work. In 1896 he located at his present home at Ardmore Park, Haverford township, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, where he has since resided. He does a large business in erecting and selling houses. His religious affiliations are with the Church of England.

Mr. Trill married, October 26, 1893, Martha Houn [or Loue], born [about 1869] at Mount Pleasant, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, daughter of Hugh and Ellen (Arkens) Houn, both of Irish extraction and the former a gardener. Children:

1. Edwin Trill, born September 15. 1894 [he married Catherine \_\_\_\_\_];
2. Ellen Trill, September 21, 1896;
3. Florence Trill, May 14, 1898;
4. Edna Trill, February 17. 1900;
5. Charles Trill, February 26, 1902.

The well spent life of Mr. Trill commends him to the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has been brought in contact and his reputation in business as well as in private life is unassailable.

©2016 Haverford Township Historical Society. Personal non-commercial use permitted; all other rights reserved.