



Haverford Township Historical Society



HOLTON HALLOWELL YARNALL (1862-1906)

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.]

Came in 1683 from Cloynes, Worcestershire, England, two **YARNALL** brothers, Francis and Philip Yarnall, from whom spring the Chester and Delaware county families of Yarnall.

FRANCIS YARNALL settled in Springfield township, Chester county, married in 1686 Hannah Baker, who bore him nine children, all sons except one; all married except one, Daniel, and all reared families. The family were members of the Society of Friends, a faith that yet prevails among the descendants of the emigrant, some of them having been ministers.

PHILIP YARNALL, younger of the two emigrant brothers from England, resided for several years with his brother, Francis, in Springfield township, but later moved to Edgemont township, where he also became a large land owner. He married Dorothy Baker, supposed to have been a relative of Hannah Baker, wife of Francis Yarnall. Seven of their ten children were sons, who also married and reared families, as did the three daughters. This branch were also Friends and furnished that faith with several ministers. The family is still an important one in Delaware county, Pennsylvania, as well as in Chester county, and other parts of the state.

This record particularly deals with the life of **HOLTON HALLOWELL YARNELL**, now deceased, son of Holton Clayton Yarnall, the latter a native of Chester county, where his early life was passed. He was a soldier of the civil war, married Lydia Hallowell and later in life settled in the state of Iowa where he died.

Holton Hallowell Yarnall was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, June 10, 1862, died in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, November 25, 1906. He was educated in the public school, finishing in high school, and began business life as an electrical worker. He became an expert in his chosen field, and for a long time held an important position with the Haverford Electric Light and Power Company. In 1893 he moved to Ardmore where in 1898 he purchased the Saint Mary's Laundry, a profitable concern that he successfully conducted until his death. He was an enthusiastic horseman, particularly fond of the light harness horse, of which he always owned a string of good speedy ones. He was a well known exhibitor at Belmont and local fairs, his stock being often named in the winning classes. He was a member of the Society of Friends; a Democrat in politics, and prominent in the Masonic order, holding the thirty-second degree, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. His manly qualities won him many friends, among whom he was held in high esteem.

Mr. Yarnall married, September 7, 1886, Mary Bradford Miller, born in 1864, at Cape May, New Jersey, daughter of Aaron Miller and Mary (Marcy) Miller. Aaron Miller was a native and farmer of Cape May county, owning transportation lines carrying produce to Philadelphia market by water route. He was also a merchant and twice elected sheriff of his county. He became very prominent and prosperous, but

lost heavily by the United States Hotel in Cape May, of which he was sole owner. This hotel, then the largest in the city, was entirely uninsured, an oversight that caused such severe loss that he died soon afterward in 1869. He was a man of great public spirit, straightforward and upright, a man greatly admired and justly popular. His wife, Mary (Marcy) Miller, who died in 1895, was a descendant of the prominent New England family of that name. Children of Holton H. Yarnall and Mary B. Yarnall:

1. Vernon Miller Yarnall, born October 1, 1887, now manager of Saint Mary's Laundry at Ardmore;
2. Mary Yarnall, residing at home; Emma Yarnall, married A. O. Vorse and resides in Ardmore;
3. James H. Yarnall, associated with his brother in the laundry business.

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