

GENEALOGICAL AND PERSONAL HISTORY

OF THE

ALLEGHENY VALLEY

PENNSYLVANIA

UNDER THE EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OF

JOHN W. JORDAN, LL.D.

Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

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nine months in the Twenty-second Connecticut Volunteers and served his term of enlistment. He saw little actual fighting, but was on guard duty at Washington. Returning to Connecticut, he spent a short time with his brother, David D., who was now married and had charge of the farm, but in 1864 he became so interested in stories of the Pennsylvania oil fields that he returned to Pennsylvania with Mr. John H. Coleman who had been visiting in Connecticut. Mr. Grant first located in Oil City. The big producing wells at that time were up Oil Creek and Cherry Run, and as there were no railroads, the oil had to be teamed to Oil City. This was no slight undertaking for the roads were badly cut up, full of deep chuck holes, and in wet weather the mud was often more than hub deep. Mr. Grant entered into business by buying oil at the wells and having it hauled to Oil City where he would either sell it or ship it down the river.

(VIII) Joseph Wadsworth, son of David Wadsworth and Alice Dudley (Denison) Grant, was born in his father's home on the beautiful Grant farm at Bloomfield, Connecticut, November 14, 1845. The old stone house, which has a heart carved in one of the gables, was erected in 1837 by his father and still stands. A magnificent row of maple trees planted even earlier, along the front of the house, and extending a quarter of a mile down the road, now makes a wonderful avenue of color for those fortunate enough to see it in its autumnal glory. Like thousands of other lads of that day, Joseph W. Grant attended a little brick school house, and there laid the foundation of that education and culture which later marked the man. He often laughingly referred to the speeches or pieces the scholars had to recite, but insisted that he himself failed utterly to remember his first piece. Many of his summer vacations were spent at Royalton, Vermont, his mother's home. He had for pets a number of beautiful fantail pigeons and was greatly interested in his bees, having them one year in a glass hive outside the parlor window.

In 1853, when the lad was only seven years of age, their charming home life, filled with every social and domestic pleasure, was broken by the passing away of his mother. Later his father married Julianna Mills. In 1862, during the civil war, Joseph W. Grant's father died. The lad then immediately enlisted for

In the year 1865 he returned to Connecticut to spend Christmas with his brother, David D., returning to Pennsylvania, January 16, 1866. He then moved to Franklin and was joined in the spring by Mr. and Mrs. David D. Grant. Together with his brother and several others Mr. Grant drilled his first well that summer at the Flats on French creek where the pumping plant of the Franklin water works is now located. This was a dry hole. The next winter both brothers worked at the Pope Farm wells, some miles below Franklin on the Allegheny river.

In April, 1866, a man named LeFavor came to Franklin from Columbus, Ohio, and persuaded David D. Grant to accompany him to the Blue Rock oil regions near Zanesville. As a result of this trip David D. and Joseph W. Grant determined to take drilling outfits to these new oil fields. They purchased a flat boat at Oil City and with two drilling rigs started on an adventuresome voyage down the Allegheny, which in those days was alive with navigation. The trip to Pittsburgh was full of excitement, narrow escapes from being swamped by passing steamers and difficulty in making the landings at night. At Pittsburgh they bargained with a passenger boat, "Julia No. 2," to take their outfit and themselves down the Ohio and up the Muskingham rivers. In landing the machinery the boatman dumped it in the mud, and the owners had difficulty in getting it out and cleaning it. They had contracted with LeFavor and the company he was

associated with to drill two wells. These were successfully put down and proved to be good ones. The rigs were eventually sold for pumping oil, and as the territory about there was not holding up well both Mr. Grant and his brother returned to Franklin.

In 1869 Joseph W. Grant went west, crossing the plains by stage coach, on a mining expedition to Montana. At Omaha, which was the western railroad terminal at that time, he purchased the smallest mule that ever crossed the plains, using it to carry his pack; he himself walked a great part of the distance between Omaha and Salt Lake City. He had a fortunate escape on this trip. He and two other men decided to leave the stage and push on for themselves, hoping to make better time. Shortly afterwards they left the main road and cut right up over the hill. While on this detour Indians came down the main road and attacked the very stage they had left.

The mining camp was situated near Deer Lodge, Montana, and the experiences there were full in interest and adventure. The first year the mining was a failure and hoping for better things Mr. Grant stayed that winter in camp. During the long, cold days when the camp was isolated, Mr. Grant wrote for the entertainment of his companions a daily newspaper, elaborating the trivial events of the camp into sketches, poems and editorials. (It was printed and illustrated entirely by hand). So cleverly was the work done that the paper was pronounced a masterpiece of wit and humor. In the late winter food supplies failed and Mr. Grant was compelled to walk some twenty miles through heavy snows in an unknown mountainous region, the thermometer being below zero. The long tramp was full of peril and risk. Mr. Grant spoke of it as one of the hardest of his western experiences. The mining proved successful the next season, and Mr. Grant returned to the east, coming as far as Omaha by canoe down the Missouri. Great care had to be taken when landing at night not to attract the attention of Indians by fires, and once the whole party was nearly swamped by a herd of buffalo entering the river where they were.

He reached Franklin in September, 1868, and went at once to Connecticut to arrange for the sale of the farm. The property was sold to George Humphrey who still lives there. Mr. Grant then came back to Franklin and began drilling for oil. He took a small lease on

the right hand side of the Oil City road just beyond the turn of the "Point" and drilled one well. This proved a good one and more ground was leased just across the road, and on the steep hillside two fine wells were brought in, the second one being completed on October 12, 1870. With Henry Ernst he leased land at Bredinsburg and put down several wells. This lease was also successful and Mr. Grant next had a lease on Bully Hill. At this time Jacob Sheasley had a number of large leases on Bully Hill and had laid a pipe line from his wells to the Cochran farm. Mr. Grant became his partner in this pipe line and afterwards Sheasley and Grant extended their drilling operations extensively. The pipe line was extended to the Galena and afterwards to the Eclipse and was finally sold to the Standard. Mr. Grant and Mr. Sheasley remained in partnership for over twenty years and drilled a number of wells on what was known as the "Front," some four miles from Franklin beyond the Galloway farm. They also bought a large farm out in that direction. When the partnership was dissolved Mr. Sheasley took the farm and Mr. Grant the leases. Mr. Grant also had leases on the Galloway farm and at the time of his death was the largest heavy oil producer in this section. He was the first oil producer to run more than one well by the same engine, a plan which he worked out himself and which was later universally adopted. In 1880 Daniel Grimm, Ephraim Black and J. W. Grant purchased from Dr. A. G. Egbert his interest in the Franklin Pipe Company. Mr. Grant was elected president of the company the following year, a position which he continued to hold until his death. The same year he purchased and remodeled the house on Liberty street which is still the family homestead. In 1887 Mr. Grant and a number of others became interested in the Columbia Gas Company and piped gas from the Speechley field to Meadville and Sharon. This company was sold to the Standard interests.

In 1907 Mr. Grant was elected a director of the First National Bank of Franklin and continued in that capacity until the time of his death, when his fellow directors paid him the following beautiful tribute:

WHEREAS since our last meeting, death has taken from us our friend, Joseph Wadsworth Grant, who has been for many years a valued member of this board; whom we held in high esteem; in whose judgment we had great confidence; and who en-

deared himself to us by his unvarying kindness and courtesy:

RESOLVED, that in the departure of our friend, the bank and each member of the board sustain a severe loss; that we desire to record our sincere appreciation of his valuable services to the bank, and that we shall ever hold him in kindest remembrance.

(Signed)

CHARLES MILLER,
O. D. BLEAKLEY,
F. W. OFFICER,
GEORGE C. MILLER,
BRYAN OSBORNE,
WILLIAM McCALMONT WILSON.

For several years he was also a director in the Austin National Bank of Austin, Texas. In 1901 Mr. Grant was elected president of the Franklin Natural Gas Company, and held that position until 1910 when the company was sold to Standard Oil interests. In the business world Mr. Grant was esteemed for his tact, integrity and clear-sightedness. One of his chief characteristics was his great love for travel. He was well versed in the beauties of his own country, having made frequent trips to different parts of the United States. His first trip abroad was made in 1869 just before the Franco-Prussian war. In 1872 he went to Europe with Samuel Dodd, John L. Mitchell, Arnold Plumer and Charles Mackey, and on another occasion he and Mrs. Grant went abroad with Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Dodd who were their lifelong friends. He made numerous trips to Europe, travelled through Egypt and the Holy Land and the year before his death took a trip around the world with his wife, his daughter Josephine and son Denison. He died, surrounded by his family, in Los Angeles, California, on May 30, 1911.

Mr. Grant married, in Chicago, Illinois, April 25, 1876, Myra Bryan Fay, born in Columbus, Ohio, September 19, 1852, daughter of Henry Tudor and Maryett (Sanford) Fay (see Fay VII). Children: 1. Kate Denison, born in Franklin, Pennsylvania, April 18, 1877; married, September 15, 1906, Egmont Sydney Pohl (see Pohl IV); children: Wadsworth Egmont, born February 13, 1908, and Marjorie Grant, born August 5, 1910. 2. Edwin Joseph, born January 14, 1879; married, February 3, 1909, Helen K. Emery; child: Joseph Emery, born August 13, 1912. 3. and 4. Henry Fay, of whom further, and Josephine, twins, born July 16, 1882. 5. Denison Wadsworth, born August 21, 1890.

(IX) Henry Fay, son of Joseph Wadsworth and Myra Bryan (Fay) Grant, was born in

Franklin, Pennsylvania, July 16, 1882. He attended the public schools until he was sixteen years of age when he went to California to live with his uncle, Mr. Frank Fay. He entered the Los Angeles Military Academy, and in his second year was promoted to the rank of major and presented with a gold medal for excellence in military drill. The following year his principal, Mr. G. C. Emery, organized the Harvard School which the boy attended for the next two years and was the president of the first class that graduated. He entered the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University and graduated in the class of 1905. One of the greatest pleasures of his college life was the Yale Glee Club of which he was a member during his junior and senior years. He was also elected a member of the Senior Promenade Committee. After graduation "Harry" Grant took charge of his father's business while the latter went abroad for six months. The next fall he was elected secretary and assistant treasurer of the Franklin Natural Gas Company and secretary of the Franklin Pipe Company, Limited. In 1909 he bought the Nursery Oil Company lease and an eighth interest in his father's holdings, and in 1912 he purchased the Henry F. James lease and other Franklin heavy oil properties. He was made a director of the First National Bank of Franklin in 1911 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his father. In August, 1912, he resigned his position with the Gas Company, and at present is devoting his time to his oil interests, the Franklin Pipe Company, Limited, and to the care of his father's estate.