

20TH CENTURY HISTORY
OF THE CITY OF
Washington and Washington County
Pennsylvania

AND

Representative Citizens

BY

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"HISTORY IS PHILOSOPHY TEACHING BY EXAMPLES"

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they were out twenty-six days, and the average temperature was twenty-six below zero, until March 29th. This was a rough experience for the prospective young gold miner and soldier of fortune, but it was only a beginning of experiences he had scarcely conceived of previously. In June, 1876, his command participated in the summer campaign against Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull's bands of Sioux Indians, the memorable campaign in which the brave Gen. Custer lost his life. In May, 1876, Gen. Crook's command left Fort Russell and on the 17th of June engaged in a running fight with 3,300 Sioux on Rosebud River and were within three miles of the death trap at the mouth of Dead Man's Canyon, in Montana, and were only saved from Custer's fate through the sagacity of Frank Guiard, a half-breed scout, who was with the party. Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill and Texas Jack, all notable scouts, were also with this command. The fight on June 17, 1876, was practically a draw. Gen. Crook was obliged to return fifty miles to his supply station for ammunition, and the Custer disaster followed within a few days. On August 5, 1876, Gen. Crook left the supply camp with his troops to avenge Gen. Custer. They trailed the Indians through the Yellow Stone and Powder River valleys, and on the 29th reached the edge of the Bad Lands. For ten days the command was lost here, having missed the trail, but on September 9th, American Horse's village was located and destroyed as was another Indian village eight days later, and in this fight Wild Bill lost his life. The command finally landed in the Black Hills, October 5, 1876, after much hardship on account of the supplies having run out, the men having to subsist on rosebuds and horse flesh. This experience in the Black Hills and Bad Lands completely cured Mr. Pollock of his attack of gold fever and he decided to serve out his time and then, as fast as possible, return to his native State. He still had many experiences, however, before he saw again the welcome sights of home. He was on duty at Fort Sheridan, near the Spotted Tail Agency, in the winter of 1877, when Crazy Horse went on a rampage, and it was Mr. Pollock who was detailed to carry the news to the Red Cloud Agency, a distance of forty-five miles, and he accomplished this courageous feat within four hours. He was present at the rounding up of Wild Hog and Yellow Hand bands of Cheyenne Indians, in 1877, and assisted in the removal of the Spotted Tail and Red Cloud bands of Sioux to the Ponca Reservation, and subsequently, in 1878, to the Pine Ridge Agency. He was stationed at Fort Sidney, Neb.; Fort McKinney, Wyo.; Camp Rawlins, Fort Laramie and Fort D. A. Russell during the remainder of his service and received his honorable and welcome discharge on November 19, 1880. He reached the old homestead in Canonsburg, in December, 1880, and in April, 1881, embarked in farming on the old Judge McDowell farm in

Oliver C. C. Pollock in early manhood added an additional initial to his name, on account of having a brother with initials of A. C. residing at the same time at Canonsburg, and retained the initial after the death of the brother. He was taken to Canonsburg by his parents, in 1857, and as he grew older, attended the public schools. In 1868 and 1869 he was a student at Dixon and Dunbar's Academy, which is now known as Jefferson Academy, and in 1871 and 1872, at Washington and Jefferson College, going from there to Westminster College, where he spent two years and graduated from the latter institution in the class of 1874. In the fall of that year he entered the United Presbyterian Seminary, at Allegheny, where he pursued his studies until the late fall of 1875. At this time the discovery of gold in the Black Hills was made known to the country and young men from all points in the East were attracted thither, some with the hope of securing fortune and others in the spirit of adventure which, at various times, has been the secret of discoveries frequently attributed to scientific research.

Among the young men, many of them students whose lives prior to this, like Mr. Pollock's had been mainly spent in academic halls, he resolved to visit the Black Hills. His proposal did not meet with the approbation of his father, and in order to get transportation to the supposed treasure land he enlisted under the name of Ira E. Douglass as a soldier in the mounted service, at the recruiting station at Pittsburg, on November 20, 1875, and was transferred from Pittsburg to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and from there in January, 1876, to Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo., and assigned to Co. M, 3rd U. S. Cav., and the young soldier took part in the winter campaign against the Sioux Indians, under General Crook. Leaving this fort on February 20, 1876, the command attacked Crazy Horse village, at the mouth of Otter Creek, in North Dakota on March 16, 1876, after making a forced march of twenty-four hours, with the thermometer registering forty-five degrees below zero. The command did not get back to Fort Fetterman, from which place

North Strabane Township, that property being then owned by his father, Samuel Pollock. In 1884, Mr. Pollock erected his present residence, and on December 18, 1884, moved into it, and has continued his farm interests here ever since. He has taken a somewhat active interest in county politics, and on the Republican ticket has been elected to numerous township offices, serving as auditor, tax collector, notary public and justice of the peace, and for five years has been chairman of the present committee.