

Biographical and Portrait Encyclopedia of the Nineteenth Congressional District, Pennsylvania, Containing Biographical Sketches Of Prominent And Representative Citizens Of The District Together With An Introductory Historical Sketch Samuel T. Wiley, Esq.; Philadelphia: C. A. Ruoff Company, 1897.



Walker A. Dromgold, senior member of the well-known firm of **Hench & Dromgold**, manufacturers of agricultural implements and machinery, of York, Pennsylvania, is a son of **John** and **Bandinah (Hench) Dromgold**, and was born near Ickesburg, Perry County, Pa., March 4th, 1850. He is descended from Scotch-Irish ancestry. **Thomas Dromgold**, his grandfather, was born in the county of Louth, near Dublin, in the Kingdom of Ireland, subject to the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, where his father was a merchant, mill owner and farmer. The former came to the United States when a young man; he emigrated from Warren Point, in the north of Ireland, on or about the 11th day of May, 1801, and arrived at New Castle, State of Delaware, in the United States of America, on the 22d day of July in the same year. From there he traveled, largely on foot, to the Chesapeake Bay, and from the mouth of the Susquehanna River, he continued his journey,

following the towpath, until he reached Millerstown, Pa. Shortly after his arrival he settled near Millerstown, Perry County, Pa., and subsequently removed to Donally's Mills in the same county. Soon after he purchased a farm near Ickesburg, Perry County. He married **Elizabeth Donally**, of Donally's Mills, who bore him a family of four children, three sons and one daughter. He continued to reside there until the time of his death; his wife **Elizabeth**, also resided on the old homestead, being cared for by the father of our subject.

At the Court of Common Pleas in Bloomfield, in and for the county of Perry, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the United States of America, on the 5th day of January, Anno Domini, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty, came into open court, **Thomas Dromgold**, a native of Ireland, and exhibited his petition and affidavit, stating that he is a free white man, and an alien, that he is about 55 years of age, as did appear by the Certificate of Registry, therewith presented under the seal of the District Court of the United States for the district of Delaware, that he has continued to reside since the day of his arrival, in and under the jurisdiction of the United States, that he is desirous and willing to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever, all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to George the Fourth, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

WHEREUPON the Court ADMITTED the said **THOMAS DROMGOLD** to become a citizen of United States of America, agreeable to the Acts of Congress in such case made and provided.

UPON the TESTIMONY of **Jacob Fritz** and **George Monroe**, Esqs., citizens of the United States, and duly sworn for the Petitioner, I, **George Stroop**, Prothonotary, have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the seal of the said court at Bloomfield, this eleventh day of June, Anno Domini, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty.

Thomas Dromgold was among the early settlers of Perry County. He died March 8, 1841, aged about 62 years. **Elizabeth**, wife of the elder **Dromgold** died September 28th, 1860, in the 74th year of her age.

John Dromgold, one of the three sons (**Edward** and **Manassas** being the others) of the grandfather of our subject, was born on the old homestead farm, near Ickesburg, on March 20, 1811, and died near Ickesburg, on his farm, January 13, 1887.

On the 18th of August, 1834, he married **Bandinah Hench**, daughter of **Samuel** and **Elizabeth (Yohn) Hench**. They had two sons and three daughters, of which the subject's mother was the eldest. The subject's grandfather, **Samuel Hench**, had three brothers and five sisters: **John**, **Jacob**, **Peter**, **Elizabeth**, **Susan**, **Catharine**, **Mary** and **Lina**. **Samuel Hench's** farm adjoined the elder **Dromgold's** farm.

Bandinah Hench Dromgold was born January 17, 1815, and died December 1, 1876. The first five years after their marriage, they resided on a farm near Dever's Run, subsequently removed to Juniata County, near Port Royal, in Turbett Township, a few years later removed to Spruce Hill Township, and finally returned to their native county where they lived the remainder of their lives. He became the owner of his father's large farm containing about six hundred acres, three hundred of which he improved. In addition to this he erected a number of tenant houses, was a large employer of labor and withal a man of prominence in this section of the county. He was elected at various times to different public offices in his township, and was active in political and business affairs generally. Politically he was a supporter of the Democratic Party, and in his religious affiliations was a consistent and valued member of the Lutheran Church. The fruitage of this union was five sons and four daughters: **Eliza J.**, deceased, wife of **Solomon Bower**, deceased, Blain, Pa., **J. Ellen**, wife of **Nicholas Ickes**, a resident of the State of Nebraska, **Maggie A.**, deceased, wife of **George Kochenderfer**, **Sarah P.**, deceased, wife of **Philip Kell**, of Ickesburg, Pa., **Samuel M.**, resident of Blain, Perry county, **William S.**, living on the old homestead. **Dr. Thomas M.**, a practicing physician, located at Seneca, Illinois. **Walker A.**, subject. **Dr. Stewart T.**, a practicing physician located at Elmore, Ohio.

Walker A. Dromgold was reared on the farm upon which he was born and received his education in the public schools, at Spring Grove and Mt. Pleasant. After leaving school he engaged in farming with his father, with whom he remained until he reached his majority. Immediately subsequent to this he conducted a farm on his own account for a period of three years and afterward removed to Patterson, Juniata County, where he continued agricultural and kindred pursuits on the estate of **Hon. James North**, a prominent citizen of that county. From here he removed to Turbett Township, the same county, where he continued to reside until 1877, when he disposed of his interests, and associated himself with **S. Nevin Hench**, of Ickesburg, Pa., in the manufacture and sale of agricultural implements near Port Royal. This connection was maintained for two years, when he removed to Perry County to take charge of his father's

farm and where he continued to reside during the succeeding three years. His duties in connection with his father's farm he supplemented by selling agricultural implements. In 1882 he left Perry County and removed to York, Pennsylvania, which has since become the place of his residence and the seat of his business activities.

He is a man of large practical experience, inventive genius and good business capacity, and has succeeded in making a worthy name for himself in the domain of manufacturing and commercial industry. He possesses unusual energy, is a vigorous worker, and his success in his special lines has been amply deserved.

In the formation of the National Harrow Company, of New York, capitalized at \$200,000.00 he was elected a Director in the interests of **Hench & Dromgold** and served for several years. A few years later upon the formation of the Standard Harrow Company, corporation, of Jersey City, New Jersey, capitalized at \$2,000,000.00, on account of his large practical knowledge and good business abilities, his associates elected him one of its directors.

His residence on Linden Avenue is commodious and tasteful, within which is centered a happy domestic circle.

In politics **Mr. Dromgold** is a Republican and for some years served as a member of the Select Council of his adopted city. He is a member of Heidelberg Reformed Church, in which he is an elder, and is earnestly devoted to such movements as have for their end the moral and social up-building of the community. On September 23, 1871, he was joined in marriage with **Martha E. Shull**, a daughter of **William Shull**, of Ickesburg, Perry County, Pa. They have five children, **Lelia Alice, Corinne, Thomas Edward, Bradie Lawrence** and **William Shull**. **Corinne** and **William S.** died in infancy, and **Bradie L.** died aged 5 years, 7 months and 20 days. **Mrs. Dromgold** died on November 24, 1881, and on February 19, 1891, **Mr. Dromgold** re-married, his present wife being **Ella F. Wilt**, Nineteenth Congressional District. 321 of York, Pennsylvania, who has borne him three children, **Florence Aileen, Davis Elkins** and **Kathryn Isabel**. **Davis Elkins** died in infancy.

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