



Walker A. Dromgold, of the former firm of **Hench and Dromgold**, and now vice-president and general manager of the **Hench and Dromgold** Company, manufacturers of agricultural implements and machinery, is a son of **John and Bandina (Hench) Dromgold**. He was born near Ickesburg, Perry Co., Pa., March 4, 1850, being of Scotch-Irish ancestry.

Thomas Dromgold, grandfather of **Walker A.**, was born in County Louth, near Dublin, Ireland, where his father was a merchant, mill owner and farmer. The former came to the United States in young manhood, emigrating from Warren Point, in the North of Ireland, about the 11th day of May, 1801, and arriving at Newcastle, Del., July 22d, of the same year. He traveled from there, mostly on foot, to the Chesapeake Bay, continuing his journey from the mouth of the Susquehanna River, following the river until he reached Millerstown, Pa. Removing from Millerstown to Donally's Mills, in the same county, **Mr. Dromgold**, the pioneer of that name in this country, purchased a farm near Ickesburg,

Perry Co., Pa., and married **Elizabeth Donally**, of Donally's Mills. Four children were born of this union, three sons and one daughter. He resided on this farm until the time of his death, his widow subsequently remaining there, where she was tenderly cared for by the father of **Walker A. Dromgold**. In the Common Pleas court in Bloomfield, Perry County, Jan. 5, 1830, **Thomas Dromgold**, then fifty-five years old, became a naturalized citizen of the United States. He died in **Perry County**, of which he had been one of the early settlers, March 8, 1841; and his wife, **Elizabeth (Donally) Dromgold**, died Sept. 28, 1860, in her seventy fourth year.

John Dromgold, one of the three sons of **Thomas Dromgold** (the other two having been **Edward** and **Manassas**, and the daughter having been **Susanna**, who married **Jacob Miller**), was born on the old homestead farm near Ickesburg, March 20, 1811, and died on his farm near Ickesburg Jan. 13, 1887. On Aug. 18, 1834, he married **Bandina Hench**, daughter of **Samuel** and **Elizabeth (Yohn) Hench**, who had two sons and three daughters, our subject's mother having been the eldest. **Samuel Hench**, the maternal grandfather of **W. A. Dromgold**, who was of German descent, had three brothers and five sisters: **John, Jacob, Peter, Elizabeth, Susan, Catharine, Mary** and **Lena**. **Samuel Hench's** farm adjoined that of the elder **Dromgold**.

Bandina (Hench) Dromgold was born Jan. 17, 1815, and died Dec. 1, 1876. During the first five years of their married life **Mr. and Mrs. Dromgold** lived on a farm near Dever's Run, then removed to Turbett Township, near Port Royal, Juniata County a few years later removing to Spruce Hill Township and finally returning to their native county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. He became the owner of his father's great farm of 600 acres, 300 of which he improved, erecting a number of tenement houses, employing many laborers, and being

justly regarded as a very prominent man. Honored with various offices in his township, he was active in political and business affairs. He was a Democrat politically, and a devout member of the Lutheran Church. Five sons and four daughters were born to him: **Eliza J.**, deceased, who married **Solomon Bower**, deceased, late of Blain, Pa.; **J. Ellen**, wife of **Nicholas Ickes**, of Nebraska; **Maggie A.**, deceased, who was the wife of **George Kochenderfer**; **Sarah P.**, deceased, wife of **Philip Kell**, of Ickesburg, Pa.; **Samuel M.**, of Blain, Perry County; **William S.**, living on the old homestead; **Dr. Thomas M.**, a practicing physician at Seneca, Ill.; **Walker A.**, our subject; and **Dr. Stewart T.**, a practicing physician of Elmore, Ohio.

Walker A. Dromgold was reared on the farm upon which he was born and was educated in the public schools at Spring Grove and Mt. Pleasant. After leaving school he went to farming with his father, remaining at that until twenty-one years old. Then he conducted a farm for three years on his own account, and next removed to Patterson, Juniata Co., Pa., continuing agricultural and other pursuits on the estate of **Hon. James North**, a very prominent citizen, of that section. His next move was to Turbett Township, same county, where he continued to reside until 1877, when he disposed of his interests and associated himself with **S. Nevin Hensch**, of Ickesburg, in the manufacture and sale of agricultural implements, near Port Royal. At the end of two years **Mr. Dromgold** removed to Perry County, to take charge of his father's farm, remaining there three years, and, in addition to managing his father's farm, selling and manufacturing agricultural implements during that period. In 1882 **Mr. Dromgold** left Perry County and located in York, where the business he then established has grown to great proportions. In the formation of the National Harrow Company of New York, **Mr. Dromgold** was elected a director in the interests of **Hensch & Dromgold**, serving and continuing as such to the present time. A few years later, on the formation of the Standard Harrow Company, of Jersey City, N. J., capitalized at \$2,000,000, **Mr. Dromgold** was elected a director, as a recognition of his large practical knowledge and sterling business abilities.

On Sept. 23, 1871, **Mr. Dromgold** was married to **Martha E. Shull**, daughter of **William Shull**, of Ickesburg, Perry County, Pa., and five children were born of this union: **Delia Alice**, **Corinne**, **Thomas Edward**, **Bradie Lawrence** and **William Shull**. **Corinne** and **William Shull** died in infancy. **Mrs. Dromgold** died Nov. 24, 1881. On Feb. 19, 1891, **Mr. Dromgold** again married, his present wife being **Ella F. Wilt**, of York, and six children have been born to this union: **Florence Aileen**, **Davis Elkins**, **Kathryn Isabelle**, **Stewart A.**, **Justina Marie Davenport**, and **Margaret**. **Mr. Dromgold** is president of the **Hensch-Dromgold-Hartman-Rice-Ickes** Reunion, which was attended by over one thousand people, and which was originally organized as the **Hensch-Dromgold** Reunion. Not only does **Mr. Dromgold** take an active part in the affairs of the **Hensch** and **Dromgold** works, employing 225 people and sending their goods to all parts of the world, but he is also a member of the firm of **Hensch, Dromgold** and **Shull**, manufacturers of lumber, having purchased, and now owning about twenty thousand acres of timber land at Mill Creek, W. Va., where they have a large sawmill plant in operation, shaving about fifteen miles of railroad for hauling logs, bark and pulp-wood. They also have a large wholesale and retail dry goods, grocery and furniture store at that point, giving constant employment to from 150 to 200 men. He is also a member of the firm of **Hensch, Dromgold** and Company, Coffee Exchange Building, New York City, doing a large export business.

Mr. Dromgold finds time, in addition, for much social enjoyment as well. His favorite recreation is in visiting his farms, of which he owns four, and the two largest of the four are noted for the splendid crops produced, for **Mr. Dromgold** is as successful at farming as he is at manufacturing.

The **Hench** and **Dromgold** Company, as it now exists, was incorporated in 1902, with a capital of \$350,000, and **Mr. Dromgold** was made vice-president and general manager. He is a Mason of the thirty-second degree, belonging to the Reading Shrine and Harrisburg Consistory. In politics **Mr. Dromgold** is a staunch Republican, and was, for four years, a member of the select council from the Eleventh ward. Here, as in all other matters entrusted to him, he gave intelligent and earnest thought, doing much for the city's good. In fact **Mr. Dromgold** does all things thoroughly and well, whether it be manufacturing, farming, or whatever else he may undertake.

The genealogy of **Bandina (Hench) Dromgold** is as follows: (I) **Johannis Hange (John Hench)** emigrated from Germany more than two centuries ago. Through the Palatinate, along the Rhine, the border provinces had been repeatedly ravaged by cruel and merciless war. Their cities, towns and villages were burned, their property confiscated or destroyed, their crops and vineyards trodden down, and their churches and schools ruined. Finding no rest, peace nor security in their own land, many thousands of them fled down the Rhine, finding refuge in Holland, and other thousands in England for a time. In England many found a sympathetic friend in William Penn, and he invited many of them to come to America. Queen Anne of England also invited them, and even bore the expenses of transportation for many of them to come to the Colonies.

Among those Germans who came to America to select their homes was **Johannis Hange (John Hench)**, a blacksmith by trade, from Württemberg, who landed at Philadelphia on the ship "Lydia," Sept. 20, 1743. After a time he returned to Württemberg and was married. He returned to America, landing at Philadelphia, Sept. 2, 1749, on the ship "Chesterfield." He settled in Vincent Township, Chester County, Pa., removed to Pikeland Township in 1753, and purchased land. His name appears on the list of Chester County taxables from 1756 to 1778.

To **John Hench** and his wife were born eight children, five sons and three daughters. The sons were **Peter, Henry, John, Jacob** and **George**; the daughters, **Maria Elizabeth, Christina** and **Betsy** or **Elizabeth**. Two of the sons, **Peter** (a fifer and drummer) and **Henry**, enlisted on a war vessel, in the war of the Revolution, in 1774. They were afterward captured and died of neglect and starvation on a prison ship at New York, and were buried under a mound in Trinity churchyard, New York. Their names are found in the Pennsylvania Archives.

The third son, **John**, enlisted in 1777 and was made second lieutenant, 4th Battalion, Pennsylvania Continental Line, under Major Peter Hartman, a kinsman. Not only in the field but at home they rendered valuable services to the cause of freedom, by furnishing cattle to the army and rendering services and care and food to the sick and wounded soldiers in the hospital at Yellow Springs, which was not far from their home. After the battle of Brandywine a portion of Gen. Wayne's division retreated across the valley hill and encamped in the evening in the meadows on **John Hench's** farm. **Mr. Hench**, told the soldiers they were welcome to take

whatever they wanted. As soon as they pitched their tents and lighted their camp fires from the fences, forty head of fat cattle were driven into the yard, and the slaughtering continued until all their wants were supplied. Many of the soldiers were shoeless, and used the skins from the bullocks, strapping them in the form to use them as shoes, to protect their feet, which were sore and bleeding.

John Hench's will was dated June 28, 1801. Before his death he removed to Mifflin County, now Juniata County, in Milford Township, with his sons and daughter, **Mrs. Zachary Rice**. He was buried at Academia, Pennsylvania.

(II) **John Hench** married **Margaret Rice**, daughter of **Zachariah Rice**.

Children of (II) **John Hench** : Sons - **Peter, Jacob, John, Samuel** and **Conrad**, who was killed when young; daughters - **Elizabeth** married **John Bryner**; **Jane Christina** married **Joseph Bryner**; **Susanna** married **Daniel Motzer**; **Sallie** married **Jacob Strauch**; **Rebecca** married **John Ritter**; **Judith** married **Jacob Evinger**; **Catharine** married **George Rausch**; **Pauline** remained unmarried.

Children of **Jacob Hench** (I) (son of emigrant **John Hench**) and his wife, **Susanna Rice**: Sons - **John, Zachariah, Major Peter**; daughters - **Abigail, Mary** and **Nancy**.

Children of **George Hench** (1), son of emigrant **John Hench**: Son -**John**; daughter - **Maria**.

Children of **Peter Hench** (2), brother of grandfather **Samuel Hench**: Sons - **Parkinson H.** and **Samuel H.**; daughters - **Jane** and **Margaret**.

Children of **Jacob Hench** (2), brother of grandfather **Samuel**: Sons - **George Hench** and **John Hench**; daughters - **Elizabeth Mary, Susanna** and **Rebecca**.

Children of **John Hench** (3), brother of grandfather **Samuel**: Sons - **John, Jacob, Conrad** and **Samuel**; daughters -**Elizabeth** and **Margaret**.

Children of **Samuel Hench**, grandfather of **Walker A. Dromgold**: Sons - **Jeremiah Hench, George Washington Hench**; daughters— **Bandina** married **John Dromgold**; **Sarah Ann** married **John B. Ritter**; **Margaret** married **Joseph Kell**.