



Gring, David, Financier, Man of Large Affairs. A list of the representative men of the State of Pennsylvania would be decidedly incomplete were the name of **David Gring** — financier, promoter and railroad magnate—omitted. Not only has he risen above the standard in business life, but he is possessed in a high degree of those excellencies of character which make men worthy of the regard of their fellows. He is keenly alive to all the varying requirements of trade, and conducts operations of the most extended and important character, but his high minded and liberal business methods excite the admiration of his compeers. He is descended from a family which has been resident in Pennsylvania for a number of generations, and the various members have always proved their worth. **David Gring**, grandfather of the man whose name heads this sketch, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, where the progenitor of this branch of the family is supposed to have settled upon his arrival in this country from Holland. **David Gring** was a farmer and a miller, a man of prominence in his locality, and

died in 1886. He married **Catherine Hill**, who died in 1882. **Samuel H. Gring**, son of **David** and **Catherine (Hill) Gring**, was born at Sinking Springs, Berks County, Pennsylvania, in 1832, and died in Reading, Pennsylvania, September 12, 1912. He was educated in the district schools of his native town and, under the supervision of his father, learned the milling trade. In 1854 he located in the vicinity of Denver, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where he owned and operated a grist mill and tannery until 1869 and during the two following years was engaged in agricultural pursuits in association with his father. In 1871 he removed to Newville, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the lumber business, with which he was identified for five years, then settled at Reading, where he spent the remainder of his life. In 1890 he commenced the construction of the Newport & Shermans Valley railroad, completing this in 1892. He also constructed a portion of the Path Valley railroad, an underlying line of the preceding. During his earlier years he was a Whig in political matters, but upon the formation of the Republican Party, joined the ranks of that party. He was a member of the Alsace Reformed Church of Reading, Pennsylvania. **Mr. Gring** married **Catherine**, a daughter of **Simon Hoyer**, a bridge contractor of Alsace Township, Berks County, and they had children: **David, Samuel H. Jr., Charles, Catherine** and **Elizabeth**.

David Gring, son of **Samuel H.** and **Catherine (Hoyer) Gring**, was born in Denver, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, June 10, 1857, and acquired a substantial education in the district schools in the vicinity of his home. He was still a young lad when he became associated with his father in the lumber interests of the latter, an association which was continued until 1876. **David Gring** then engaged in the lumber business independently in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, purchasing large tracts of virgin forest land in Huntingdon, Blair, Mifflin, Bedford and Juniata Counties. In 1881 he settled in Newport, Perry County, Pennsylvania, and has resided there since that time. In 1886 he constructed the Diamond Valley railroad, thereby opening up

extensive and valuable timber districts along its line. In 1891 he became a promoter of railroads, and was instrumental in constructing the Newport and Shermans Valley railroad, of which he was made president and general manager, an office of which he is still the incumbent. He is also president of the Path Valley railroad; the Susquehanna River and Western railroad; Paxtang Consolidated Water Company, which embraces nine water companies; Lebanon Valley Consolidated Water Company, which embraces eight water companies; West End Water Company, Clinton County, Pennsylvania, embracing six water companies; Hanover and McSherrystown Water Company, embracing five water companies; Newport Home Water Company, Newport, Pennsylvania ; Mountain City Water Company, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania; Washington Water Supply Company, Slatington, Pennsylvania; Palatine Bridge (New York) Water Company; Fultonville (New York) Water Company; Hummelstown (Pennsylvania) Electric Light Company. He also has extensive lumber interests in North and South Carolina, Eastern Tennessee, Eastern Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia. In political matters he is a staunch Republican, but he has no desire for public office, holding the opinion that he is best serving the interests of his country by devoting himself to business and thus increasing her prosperity in this direction.

Mr. Gring married, July 21, 1880, **Emma C.**, a daughter of **Anson V. Caldwell**, of Perry County, Pennsylvania, and they have children: 1. **Elizabeth**, born July 24, 1881. 2. **Robert B.**, born May 24, 1884. 3. **Rodney M.**, born February 17, 1887; former general manager of Morris County Traction Company, Morris county, New Jersey; resigned to become, and is now general manager of Susquehanna River & Western railroad of New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania, and of the Mountain City Water Company, of Frackville, Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, and of the Washington Water Supply Company, of Slatington, Pennsylvania. 4. **Herbert C.** born November 30, 1888; general manager of Newport & Shermans Valley railroad, of Newport, Pennsylvania, and treasurer of Hanover & McSherrystown Water Company, of Hanover, Pennsylvania, and Mountain City Water Company, of Frackville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. 5. **Wilbur D.**, born April 2, 1892; superintendent of motive power of Newport & Shermans Valley railroad, and Susquehanna & Western railroad.

The children of **David Gring** were all born at Newport, Perry County, Pennsylvania. No estimate can be made of **Mr. Gring's** character and his standing in the business world that does not embrace his strong characteristics for courage and sincerity of purpose. These, joined with his foresight and sagacity, have led him to the success to which he has attained. He seems to see the value of an enterprise from the viewpoint of profit when others hesitate and when he has once seen it goes to the execution of it without a hesitation or a doubt. His constant success has led the world of capital to follow him with its millions. In Central Pennsylvania he has been much of a pioneer. In a dozen of counties his benefits and influence have been felt for the general good of the people. In these enterprises he has built himself an enduring monument which will hold his name in remembrance for generations to come.

In his personal department he is modest, generous and kindly to all men who have business or social intercourse with him. His life is pure and clean, devoted solely to his business and his family. Take him all in all he is a most fitting representative of the German blood that has made Pennsylvania the great empire state she is.