

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.



S. Nevin Hench. York being essentially a manufacturing town, it is to the numerous mills and factories that its citizens must look for the continuance of the growth and prosperity that has marked the last decade of the city's history. To the number of these there has been a large accession in that period. Among other firms which have gone extensively into manufacturing here, thereby constituting themselves worthy and enterprising citizen who subserve the interests and promote the welfare of the city, is that of **Hench & Dromgold**, the junior member of which is the subject of this sketch.

S. Nevin Hench is a son of **George Washington and Frances (Rice) Hench**. He was born on June 27, 1854, in Saville, Perry County, Pennsylvania, and his ancestry is of French descent. His grandfather, **Samuel Hench**, was a native of the same county, and died in the vicinity of Saville. He pursued the dual occupation of blacksmith and farmer and married **Elizabeth Yohn**. Five children of which the subject's father was the youngest, were born to this union. The father was born on the old homestead farm in the same vicinity, Feb. 28, 1828, pursued the

occupation of farmer and is still living, though in practical retirement from all active business pursuits. The elder **Hench** is a Democrat in politics and an active member and elder of the German Reformed Church. He united in marriage with **Frances Rice**, a daughter of **Samuel Rice**, a native of Perry County, by which alliance he had twelve children, five sons and seven daughters, eleven of whom are still living.

S. Nevin Hench was educated in the common schools and remained on the farm until he had passed his majority. His father had a small work shop and the son being of a mechanical turn of mind, gave much of his time to devising and improving farm machinery. At the age of sixteen or eighteen years he had invented, patented and placed on the market riding corn cultivators, corn planters and similar agriculture implements. In this way he accumulated sufficient capital to set up a small manufacturing business, which was begun in 1878. This enterprise was continued for twelve years, when **Mr. Hench** and **Walker A. Dromgold**, who had become associated with him, built a large establishment in the West End of York for the manufacture of their patented implements. The plant which has had a most creditable career and has reached quite extensive proportions, at the present time covers two acres along the Western Maryland railroad and furnishes employment for about 125 hands. The manufactured output of the concern consists of spring tooth harrows of various kinds, circular saw mills, engines, spike tooth harrows and improved corn planters, shellers,, cider-mills, and other farm machinery and implements which

the combined inventive genius of **Mr. Hench** and **Mr. Dromgold** has produced. The firm also operates a large lumber plant near Piedmont in Mineral County, West Virginia.

Mr. Hench is a director in the York Trust Real Estate and Deposit Company, and is also a member of the firm of **Hench, Dromgold & Stagemyer**, brick and tile manufacturers, which owns and operates a large plant for the manufacture of a superior quality of brick and tile, near Emigsville, York County. Unlike his father **Mr. Hench** is a Republican in politics and his party appreciating his intelligent support and participation in its local affairs, elected him a member of the school board from the Eleventh ward, in which capacity he has served during the past two years. He is a member of Grace Reformed Church, in which he is an elder and of whose Sunday school he has been assistant superintendent for eight years. He is also a trustee of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church at Lancaster, Pa., and was a member of the Building Committee for the new Seminary building; a member of several fraternal organizations, chief among which are: Howell Chapter, No. 199, Royal Arch Masons; Gethsemane Commandery, No. 75, Knights Templar; and Willis Council, No. 508 Royal Arcanum. **Mr. Hench** is a first class business man, public spirited and progressive and ranks among the successful manufacturers of York. He is a man possessing more than ordinary civic pride, is a liberal supporter of all worthy educational and social movements and commands the esteem of his fellow-townsmen.

On June 11, 1885, **Mr. Hench** was joined in marriage with **Emma Flinchbaugh**, a daughter of **Frederick Flinchbaugh**, of York. They live in a handsome residence on Linden Avenue, where flowers, beautiful shrubbery, cordial hospitality and the interior adornment of their home give evidence of the refined tastes of the owners. To their union have been born four children: **Nevin F.**, **Francis R.**, **G. Harold**, and **Adele M.**

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