

A History Of The Juniata Valley And Its People Under The Editorial Supervision Of John W. Jordan, L. D. Librarian Of Historical Society Of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., Volume III, Illustrated, New York, Lewis Historical- Publishing Company, 1913

The Pennell Family

William Henry Pennell, of Duncannon, Pennsylvania, descends from straight Irish ancestry on the paternal side, the race that has done so much to develop the vast latent resources of this country. His father, **Andrew Pennell**, was born in Ireland, and upon coming to America first resided in Norristown, Pennsylvania, in 1836, and he engaged in contracting for quarrying stone. He married **Margaret Horneth**, born in Norristown, Pennsylvania, of German ancestry. After their marriage they moved to Wheatfield Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania, where he bought four hundred and fifty acres of land partially improved. He erected a new barn, remodeled the dwelling house and made other improvements. Later he built a new house and other barns, making it one of the model farms of that section of the state. He was a Republican, voting with and upholding the tenets of that party at all times. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and actively supported it. In 1858 he built a church for that denomination on a portion of his farm, donating church and land to the members of that creed in the community. This edifice is still standing and is known as the Pennell Church, a monument to his religious zeal and his pious life. Children:

1. **John**, a railway foreman: died in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: he was a member of the Bucktail Regiment from Pennsylvania, which did such valuable service for the Union: he was wounded at Grangeville, was honorably discharged, but on recovery he reenlisted in the 21st Pennsylvania Cavalry, and served until the close of the civil war.
2. **Robert**, makes his home in Williamstown, Pennsylvania: he served three years in the 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry during the civil war.
3. **George**, a prominent citizen of Duncannon, Pennsylvania: he enlisted in the 133d Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry at the outbreak of the civil war, and served out the time of his enlistment; later he entered the 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment; is now president of the Bank of Duncannon.
4. **William Henry Pennell**, of whom further.
5. **Thomas**, a farmer in Wheatfield Township.
6. **Andrew**, died in Newport, in 1910.
7. **Hanson**, an upholsterer in Newport, Pennsylvania.
8. **Mary**, unmarried; makes home with her brother **James**, on the Pennell homestead.
9. **James**, unmarried; lives on homestead.

(II) **William Henry**, son of **Andrew** and **Margaret (Horneth) Pennell**, was born March 23, 1842, in Wheatfield Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania. He attended the public schools of the township and was reared on the Pennell homestead. He grew to man's estate in the quiet surroundings of the farm and home life, and was about to decide on following the occupation of his father when the war cloud of 1861 burst over the country. In 1861, at the age of nineteen, he enlisted in the 20th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment for six months' service, but served seven. On being discharged he reenlisted in the 21st Regiment of Pennsylvania Cavalry and remained with it until the close of the war. He saw much active service, and was in the battles of Petersburg and Fort Hell, went through the bloody Wilderness campaign, and reached Gettysburg the day

following the decisive battle which gave the field and victory to the Union troops. He was in about fifty engagements, great and small. At Petersburg he lived for days in a mine underground, and did notable service at that crucial time. After peace was declared he returned to Pennsylvania to take up again the broken threads of life. On looking around he decided on oil speculation, as that business was then claiming a large share of public attention, and went to the oil fields of Pennsylvania. Here he remained one year, and at the expiration of that time he went to Duncannon and opened a livery stable, combining with it a butcher's shop. Disposing of this dual business, he was offered and accepted the position of nail shipping clerk at Duncannon for the Steel Company. In 1870 or thereabouts he received the appointment of postmaster at Duncannon, and retained the position for eight years. Owing to a change in party and administration at Washington he resigned this position and engaged in selling farm machinery. In 1897, after the inauguration of President McKinley, **Mr. Pennell** was a second time appointed postmaster, which post he holds at the present time (1913), and is the oldest postmaster in length of service in this part of the state. Since his first appointment as postmaster the office has been raised from the fourth to the third class, and there have been established four rural routes which are served from Duncannon. Over 95,000 pieces of mail are handled monthly. He is a Republican, and at one time was tax assessor for the borough. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church. He is commander of Lieutenant William Allison Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and has been for the past fifteen years, and is a bright member of the Knights of Pythias.

He married **Jane Brown**, born in Duncannon. Children: 1. **Sarah C**, married **H. A. Birmingham**, and lives in Kansas City, Missouri; one son, **Herbert**. 2. **William Henry Brown**, assistant postmaster; married **Margaret Smith**. 3. **Maggie**, died aged fourteen months.