

HISTORY

OF

Pittsburgh and Environs

BY

Special Contributors and Members of the Editorial Staff



THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

NEW YORK and CHICAGO

1922



W. M. ...

and Clara (Childs) McClintock, born Jan. 16, 1882, married, Nov. 11, 1911, Fanny Brower, daughter Charles DeHart Brower, Esq., and Mary B. Brower, of New York City. Two children: Harvey Childs, Jr., born Nov. 2, 1912; Bailey Brower, born May 6, 1918. Harvey C. McClintock is a graduate of Shadyside Academy, 1898; Phillips-Andover Academy, 1899; Yale College, B. A. 1903; Harvard Law School, 1906. After admission to the Pittsburgh bar, 1907, he practiced law as a member of the firm of Young, McClintock & Painter. In 1911 he was candidate for judge of the County Court on the Keystone party ticket. In 1915 he served as secretary to Col. Arthur Woods, police commissioner of New York City, and later as special deputy police commissioner. Since 1918 he has been associated with the law firm of White & Case, No. 14 Wall street, New York City.

Elsie Thompson, twin daughter of Oliver and Clara (Childs) McClintock, born April 10, 1886, married Frank Dwight Nicol, of Detroit, where they reside. Mr. Nicol is member of Nicol, Ford & Company, brokers, Detroit. One child, Jeannette, born March 16, 1919.

Jeannette Lowrie, twin daughter of Oliver and Clara (Childs) McClintock, born April 10, 1886, married Wallace N. Osburn, of Detroit, March 16, 1919, where they reside. Mr. Osburn is vice-president of the Gemmer Manufacturing Company, of Detroit.

WILLIAM PENN SNYDER—The passing years inexorably take from their places even those men and women whose loss can apparently least be borne, and early in its course 1921 found a shining mark in William Penn Snyder, a leading industrialist of the Pittsburgh district and a citizen who considered no effort too great as the price of the privileges of his citizenship. Mr. Snyder was a member of a family of German origin, of Pennsylvania residence from 1726. The first of the name to come into prominence was Simon Snyder, who in his boyhood was apprenticed to a tanner at York. He applied himself in his spare hours to the task of self-improvement, becoming not only skilled in his trade but a man of wide and exact information. In 1784, with the money he had saved, he established himself in Selin's Grove as a storekeeper and mill owner. In 1799 he was chosen a member of the State Constitutional Convention, where his wise conservatism and strong common sense were noted and appreciated. In 1808 he was elected governor of Pennsylvania, was twice reelected, and received the further tribute of having Snyder county named in his honor.

William Penn Snyder was born in Hollidaysburg, Pa., in 1867, son of the Rev. Edmund Bowman and Mary (McCoy) Snyder, his father a noted minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, pastor of Christ Church, Pittsburgh, and the North Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Allegheny, having been instrumental in the erection of the latter edifice. William Penn Snyder attended the public schools, studied under his father's direction, and in early youth became an office boy in the employ of Schoenberger & Company, one of the pioneer iron manufacturing firms of Pittsburgh. As opportunity offered he mastered the various depart-

ments of the business, taking instinctively to the industry and displaying unusual capacities and capabilities.

John G. A. Leishman was associated with Mr. Snyder in the Schoenberger employ and they planned an independent partnership that materialized in 1880 in the firm of Leishman & Snyder, iron brokers. Until 1888 this firm enjoyed successful continuance, Mr. Leishman then withdrawing to accept an interest in the Carnegie Steel Company, of which he later became president. Afterward Mr. Leishman entered the diplomatic service and was ambassador to both Turkey and Germany. Mr. Snyder became sole owner of the business by purchase of the Leishman interest and as W. P. Snyder & Company the business was conducted by Mr. Snyder until his death, one of the few iron brokerage firms with such a record of service and success.

In 1894-95 Mr. Snyder was vice-president of the McClure Coke Company, maintaining his connection with the concern until its absorption by the H. C. Frick Coke Company. As a close friend and business associate of Henry W. Oliver, Mr. Snyder cooperated with that gentleman in a large number of important undertakings. Mr. Oliver and his associates performed the pioneer work in the present immense production of Lake Superior iron ore, Mr. Snyder being particularly interested in these operations and acquiring extensive holdings in the Lake Superior region. Mr. Oliver and Mr. Snyder are credited by the iron and steel industry of the country with being the first manufacturers to successfully use one hundred per cent. Mesabi ore in a blast furnace, a method until then believed impracticable and now a general practice. In the production of coking coal Mr. Oliver and Mr. Snyder headed an organization, the Oliver & Snyder Steel Company, which had the largest output, next to the H. C. Frick Coke Company, in the fifth bituminous district of Pennsylvania. This company finally disposed of its business and properties to the American Steel and Wire Company.

In 1904 Mr. Snyder was elected president of the Clairton Steel Company, and completed the building of the large steel plant at Clairton, Pa., which was taken over by the United States Steel Corporation in 1906. In this year he founded the Shenango Furnace Company, to which, after Mr. Oliver's death in 1904, practically his entire efforts were turned. With vast ore holdings in the Northwest, blast furnaces, coal mines, and coke works in Western Pennsylvania, he had the nucleus of a powerful organization. Only one department was lacking—vessels, so from 1906 to 1912 Mr. Snyder built a fleet of large bulk freighters to transport the ore from the Northwest down the Great Lakes to his Pennsylvania plants, and upon the completion of this undertaking the Shenango Furnace Company was securely entrenched as one of the strongest independent companies of the United States.

Mr. Snyder was also president of the Shenango Steamship Company, the Shenango Steamship and Transportation Company, and the Antoine Ore Company. He was a director of the Pittsburgh Trust Company and the Union Trust Company, of Clairton. Several years after the formation of the United States Steel Corporation Mr. Snyder was offered the presi-

dency of this great organization, but declined the honor on the ground that he preferred independent interests rather than the direction of a dominating combination. He possessed the essentials of successful leadership, courage, initiative, and constructive imagination, and intertwined with his executive talents was a rugged honesty and uprightness that kept his reputation free from any taint of questionable practice. Mr. Snyder held the confidence and trust of his associates to a remarkable degree, and their unswerving loyalty accounted for a large part of his success. He was a just and loyal friend, independent in disposition, but responding readily to any call made in friendship's name.

Mr. Snyder was a member of the American Iron and Steel Institute, the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Duquesne and Pittsburgh clubs. In Duluth his club was the Kitchi Gammi; in Cleveland the Union, and in New York the Lawyers'. For many years Mr. Snyder served as a trustee of the University of Pittsburgh, and as a member of the board of governors of the Allegheny General Hospital.

William Penn Snyder married, in November, 1887, Mary C. Black, daughter of Dr. Alexander Wylie and Margaret (Watson) Black. Children: William Penn, Jr., a sketch of whom follows; and Mary Black.

William Penn Snyder died Feb. 3, 1921. His record will long stand in Pittsburgh annals as that of a man who realized the best possibilities of rich gifts, and who strove steadily with honest purpose and high ideals.

WILLIAM PENN SNYDER, JR.—The weighty responsibilities for which he was trained came to Mr. Snyder early in life, and he is now an official of organizations whose operations are widespread and of leading importance. Mr. Snyder bears a name that, through his own activities and those of his honored father, has been in a position of leadership in industrial affairs for many years.

William Penn Snyder, Jr., son of William Penn and Mary C. (Black) Snyder (q. v.), was born in Sewickley, Pa., Aug. 8, 1888. His educational advantages included a course in the Shadyside Academy of Pittsburgh, after which he entered Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, being graduated in 1910 with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. When beginning business life he entered naturally into the field that had claimed the elder Snyder, and spent a year in each department of the Shenango Furnace Company, blast furnace, mining, and steamshipping, where he gained an experience in production that could have been obtained in no other manner. In 1913 he entered the executive offices of the company, where he supplemented his practical knowledge with study of executive problems. For two years he was assistant to the president, afterward serving as vice-president, where he came into added responsibility in the administration of the company's large interests. In 1918 he became president of the company and has filled that office to the present time. The Shenango Furnace Company, miners and shippers of coal and iron ore, and manufacturers of pig iron and coke, is one of the best known organizations in its field. The company is so organized that it is almost entirely independent of outside influ-

ences, with the possession of valuable mineral deposits, immense plants, and transportation lines the foundation of its unassailable position. Mr. Snyder has continued in the policy outlined by the founder of this successful enterprise, and has directed its operations in steady prosperity. He is also vice-president of the Shenango Steamship Company, vice-president of the Antoine Ore Company, vice-president of the Lake Erie Limestone Company, and director of the Pittsburgh Trust Company and the Lake Erie Carriers' Association. He is a member of the American Iron and Steel Institute, American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Pig Iron Association, Yale Engineering Association, and the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, taking especially great interest in the work of the last named institution. He is a trustee of the University of Pittsburgh, succeeding his father in 1920, and is secretary of the Associated Western Yale Clubs.

Mr. Snyder is a member of the Duquesne, Pittsburgh, University, and Allegheny Country clubs, the Kitchi Gammi Club, of Duluth, Minn., the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, and the Yale Club, of New York City.

Mr. Snyder married, in New Orleans, La., Feb. 19, 1917, Marie Elsie Whitney, of that city, and they have one son, William Penn (3rd).

REV. JOHN TAYLOR PRESSLY—"He left a memorial in his work and a fragrance in his name through which his memory has been made dear to countless hearts." These words were spoken of Rev. John Taylor Pressly, D. D., for thirty-eight years the loved and honored pastor of the First United Presbyterian Church of Allegheny, Pa. There are many in that community who remember Dr. Pressly, and there are many throughout the land, filling hundreds of pulpits, whose hearts burn with affectionate and grateful remembrance of him as their theological instructor.

John Taylor Pressly was born March 22, 1795, in Abbeville District, S. C., a son of David and Jane (Paterson) Pressly, both of Abbeville District, and descended from Scottish ancestors, who were among the early and influential settlers of that State. It has been truly said of Dr. Pressly that "he was an honored member of an honored family." He received his early education in a local academy, afterward entering Transylvania University, Kentucky, and graduating with the class of 1812. Having resolved to devote himself to the ministry of the gospel, he entered the Associate Reformed Theological Seminary, New York, where he was under the instructions of the eminent Dr. John Mitchell Mason. Having completed there a full three years' course of study, he was licensed in the spring of 1815 by the Second Associate Reformed Presbytery of South Carolina, and for a year devoted himself to missionary work, traveling on horseback through several of the Southern States and as far north as Pennsylvania and New York.

On his return home Mr. Pressly was called to the pastorate of the church, in which he had been baptized, the Cedar Springs Congregational, and there he ministered for fifteen peaceful, pleasant and profitable years, dating from ordination, July 3, 1816. Gladly would he