

GENEALOGICAL
AND
MEMORIAL HISTORY
OF THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A RECORD OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER PEOPLE IN THE
MAKING OF A COMMONWEALTH AND THE
FOUNDING OF A NATION

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southern rebellion, and Irving and Morgan Speer, sons of Alfred, enlisted in the First Colorado Regiment and rendered effective service in the Philippine Islands in 1898-99.

(VIII) Alfred, eldest child of Henry and Rachel (Van Amburgh) Speer, was born in Passaic, New Jersey, November 2, 1823. He attended the public school, and when fifteen years of age was apprenticed to a cabinet maker in Newark, the terms of his apprenticeship being that he should board in his employer's family and receive twenty-five dollars each year in cash until he was twenty-one years of age. Out of his yearly stipend he was to pay for his washing and purchase his own clothing. The boy's tastes ran in the direction of mechanics at the time, and his ambition was to study and use his inventive faculties, dormant in his nature. He completed his apprenticeship with the satisfaction of being master of his trade, but with no money in his pockets to carry out his ambition to get out of the cabinet making business. This condition necessitated his earning money at his trade to support himself and he started business in Passaic in a small shop, which he built near his grandfather's farm-house, hoping to employ at least half his time in the study of literature and in working out problems in mechanics that promised useful inventions. His early experience as his own master runs as follows: He would take an order for a bureau or a sofa and would make the journey by cars to New York to buy the material, would ship it to Passaic by rail and return home, a distance of twelve miles, on foot, his purchases having exhausted his cash capital. As trade increased he soon had a larger shop and several journeymen to assist him. His industry gave him a few hours each day for study and indulging in his mechanical experiments. His literary ambitions he was obliged to partially abandon, as it promised no immediate return, and he took up horticulture and arboriculture, both for profit and recreation. His vineyard, as it became fruited, led him to manufacture some native wine, which proved to be good and promised a means of profit. A window fastener, which he patented, was favorably received and he started out to sell county and state rights, but he met with indifferent success. While in New Orleans he sent home for a basket of his bottled wine and from these samples he took large orders both in New Orleans and Mobile. This changed the current of his efforts and demonstrated that wines were more marketable than window fasteners, and he hastened home to fill orders

already taken and at the same time to enlarge his facilities for filling future orders for wine. This led to his extensive vineyards and large wine presses and the management of the sale of Speer's Native Wines, which gained world-wide celebrity.

In 1870 he in a degree carried out his literary ambition by establishing *The Item*, the first newspaper published in Passaic, a weekly devoted to the news and promulgating the principles of the Republican party. He was a pioneer in other directions as indicated by the history of the village and city of Passaic. He was a school trustee under the old regime; provided the first hall for lectures and public meetings, by converting the ball room of the old tavern into a hall. He organized the first temperance organization in the town and named the society the Rechabites; placed himself out of touch with his townsmen and neighbors by insisting on having sidewalks at the time he was serving as street commissioner and was prominent in carrying the place out of its village stagnation into the activity and push of a growing city. His own fortune kept pace with the progress of his native city and he kept ahead of the procession and led his fellow-citizens with quick steps along the path of accomplishment.

Mr. Speer married (first) June 6, 1844, Catherine Eliza, daughter of Abraham Berry, of Acquockenock. Mr. Berry owned a grist mill and home on the shore of Yantacaw pond and was a prosperous and deserving citizen. Children: 1. William Henry, born March 17, 1845; married Emma L. Henion, March 17, 1869; they had two children: Maud, born May 10, 1872, and Grace, June 5, 1875. 2. Alfred Wesley, May 6, 1847; married Kate Brown, January 19, 1871, and they had no children. August 5, 1852, Catherine Eliza (Berry) Speer died, and September 22, 1856. Mr. Speer married (second) Polly Ann Morgan, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; children: 3. Ella Morgan, May 29, 1860, died unmarried, April 2, 1891. 4. Sidney Silvester, December 19, 1865; married Johanna Schritts and had three children: Sydney C., born 1893, died 1899; Alfred W., born 1897; Lillian Myrtle, 1900. 5. Nelson, January 28, 1868, died August 2, 1869. 6. Althea L., March 7, 1873. 7. Irving, September 22, 1874. 8. Morgan, November 26, 1875.

(VII) Burnett, fifth son of Henry J. and Martha (Vreeland) Speer, was born in Belleville, New Jersey, October 17, 1806. He married Betsey Snyder and they had six children: 1. John S., died unmarried. 2. David H., born

May 2, 1840; married, March 4, 1866, Mary E. Hall and had three children: i. Willie B., 1867; married Anna Hyath and had children; ii. Helen L., 1872; school teacher; iii. Angie, 1879. 3. Edmund E., February 13, 1844; married Martha Beney, June 6, 1867, and had three children: i. Carrie, 1867; ii. Nelson A., 1871; iii. Percy, 1876. 4. Burnett, November, 1847, died April 7, 1908; married, January 14, 1847, Jane Ann Carew and they had seven children: i. Lester William, 1877; married May E. Chatfield, and had Grace C., born 1907; ii. Della, 1876; iii. Isabella, 1879; married Albert C. Child and had Stanley Child, 1906, Clayton Child, 1907; iv. Eugene Garfield, 1880; v. Vinne Vandemburgh, 1884; married Cecil Farréll and had Marion, 1906; vi. Roy Burnett, 1886; married Lillian Paulin; vii. Clara Louise, 1887. 5. Eliza, November 9, 1850; married Charles Lovelace, May 24, 1870, and had six children: i. Cora Lovelace, May 24, 1871; married Edmund Hassell, 1891, and had four children: Helen C., 1892, died young; Jennie I., 1895; Mildred, 1897; Edwin C., 1900; ii. Charles Lovelace, 1874, died unmarried; iii. Mary Elizabeth, 1876, died unmarried; iv. John (1878-1880); v. Clarence, 1881; vi. Bessie, 1884. 6. Clara, June 12, 1854.

GUMMERE

The Gummere family of Pennsylvania and New Jersey is of German origin. The name originally was Gömere or Gumerie, and the first of these two latter forms is the one which is used by the emigrant ancestor of the family in signing his will which is on file in the office of the surrogate in Philadelphia. The family is one that has always stood exceptionally high in the educational and professional world, and some of the greatest advantages which we now enjoy in those walks of life have had their inception and beginnings in the fertile brains of members of this family. The name is deeply rooted in the history of more than one American college, and at least one college owes its foundation, and its present high standing among institutions of learning to two descendants of the sturdy Teutonic emigrant.

(I) Johann Gömere came to Germantown, Pennsylvania, in 1719, from Crefeldt, Germany; and there is a tradition in the family that he came originally from French Flanders. He and his wife, Anna, both died within twenty-four hours of each other, and were buried at the same time, May, 1738, in the "Upper Burying Ground," Germantown, but as their graves are unmarked it is impossible

now to locate them. Among their children was a son Johannes, referred to below.

(II) Johannes, son of Johann and Anna Gömere, lived in Moreland township, Pennsylvania, and in 1740 he received a certificate of removal for himself and his wife, Sarah, who is believed to have been a member of the Davis family of Bucks county, from the Abington Monthly Meeting to the Monthly Meeting at Concord, Pennsylvania. Among his children was a son Samuel, referred to below.

(III) Samuel, son of John (Johannes) and Sarah (Davis) Gummere, was born in Moreland township in 1750, and was probably the youngest son. July 6, 1814, he and his wife, Rachel, who had previously removed from Pennsylvania to Upper Springfield, New Jersey, asked for a certificate of removal from the latter place to the Burlington Monthly Meeting. October 23, 1783, he married Rachel, daughter of John and Anna James, of Willistown, Pennsylvania, and among their children were John and Samuel R., referred to below. Samuel Gummere was a minister among Friends.

(IV) John, son of Samuel and Rachel (James) Gummere, was born at Rancocas, New Jersey, 1784, died in 1845. For many years he lived at Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, and for more than forty years was an esteemed and successful teacher of youth at Horsham, Rancocas, West Town, Burlington and Haverford, Pennsylvania. In this last named place he has left an enduring monument of his greatness in the Friends' College. This was opened in 1833 with Mr. Gummere for its head master as a school designed to afford literary instruction and religious training to the children of Friends, under whose control the present college continues. Systematic physical training and athletic sport were made prominent in the original plan, and are still insisted upon. In 1845 the school was temporarily suspended in order to give opportunity for collecting an endowment, and was reorganized as a college in 1856. Upon his retirement from the Friends' College at Haverford, Mr. Gummere resumed his boarding school at Burlington, which he had previously conducted at first alone and afterwards with the aid of his son, Samuel J. Gummere, from 1814 to 1833, and in this occupation spent the remainder of his quiet and useful life. He was the author of many excellent text-books, and his work elicited the warmest commendation from Dr. Bowditch, Professor Bache and other competent judges. Among these publications were his celebrated