

HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE
BRIGHT FAMILY

PREPARED AT THE REQUEST
OF THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF
BERKS COUNTY

AND READ BEFORE THAT BODY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1900.

*"A chiel's amang you taking notes,
And faith he'll prent it."*

—BURNS.

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Historical Sketch of the Bright Family.

A PAPER

READ BEFORE THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY, PA.,

NOVEMBER 13, 1900.

By A. G. GREEN, Esq.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Historical Society of Berks county, held Tuesday evening November 13, 1900, A. G. Green, Esq., president of the society, read the following interesting sketch of the Bright family, in conformity with the request of the society made a short time ago. Mr. Green said:

INTRODUCTORY.

At a meeting of the Historical Society of Berks county, held September 11th, 1900, it was formally voted that Mr. Green, the president of the society, be requested to prepare a sketch of the Bright family of Berks county. I appreciated the honor of the invitation, and as I had gathered a large amount of statistical information connected with the early as well as the subsequent history of the family, it seemed to me to offer an excellent opportunity to put my material into permanent shape. Besides the sense of responsibility which a formal acceptance imposed, would necessarily insure the fulfilment of the obligation—a stimulus, the want of which has caused many attempts of a like character to fall of completion.

In the treatment of the subject, I have endeavored to relieve it from that lack of general interest which sketches of family pedigree necessarily involve, by making it largely biographical and

historical. At the same time the fact will be recognized that no family history can be reasonably complete which does not contain a list of the names of the individuals of the family in the successive generations and under their appropriate ancestral heads, and so that it may not be difficult to trace the genealogy of its members to the original stock from which they severally descended.

In order to easy identification, I have prefixed to the names in the order of the several generations, their appropriate numbers in parentheses. For instance, the first generation is marked (1). The second generation, consisting of ten persons, is designated (2), (3), (4), &c. The third and fourth generations are numbered in the same way.

MICHAEL BRECHT (OR BRIGHT) THE ELDER.

The first emigrant to America was Michael Brecht. He came from Schriessheim, a market town in the Palatinate. Born in 1706, he left his native town for America when he was 20 years of age and came to Germantown, Pa., in October, 1726. It is not often that a family is so fortunate as to trace its remote ancestors beyond the first emigration. But in the case of the Bright family, by the recent effort of George D. Bright, of Philadelphia, a great-great-grandson of the emigrant's eldest son Jacob, the dusty and mutilated

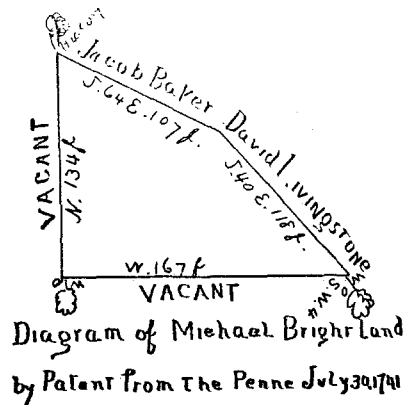
records of the Lutheran church of Schriessheim have been carefully searched at some expense. From them it appears that a certain Christoph Brecht died there in 1665, at the age of 74, and his wife Anna in 1683 at the age of 85, and had removed thither from Neudorf, where he was born in 1591.

The same records further disclose that Christoph Brecht had a son named Balthaser, born in 1636, who was married on the 24th of August, 1658, to Anna Margareta Christman; that he was a councilman and almoner of the town; and had fourteen children, and that his death occurred September 9, 1703, at the age of 67. Of the fourteen children, the third was named Johannes. He was born October 12, 1662, and was married July 29, 1684, to Anna Katharine, daughter of Hans Yost Hoffman, a councilman of the village. Among the children of Johannes Brecht was one named Johann Michael, who was born, says the church record, May 30, 1706, and who had for sponsor at his baptism Hans Michael Hoffman. It would appear that Johann Michael dropped his pre-nomen, probably to distinguish him from his father Johannes, as he was known after he left his home for America only as Michael Brecht.

This Michael Brecht was the emigrant who first settled at Germantown. His stay at that place was brief. As the impelling desire of the German emigrant of that day was liberty and land, the new-comer soon pushed his way westward until he found fertile, unoccupied lands in the Lebanon valley. Here, at the head waters of the Millbach, a small tributary that flows into the Tulpehocken creek at the present town of Sheridan on the Lebanon Valley railroad, he settled. The locality was known as Heidelberg township, originally in Chester county, but by the organization of the county of Lancaster in 1729, it became part of the latter county. In its immediate neighborhood the village of Shaefferstown, now in Lebanon county, was afterwards laid out by Alexander Shaeffer, who also emigrated from the Palatinate in 1740.

Here Michael Brecht first met Margareta Simone, the daughter of Jacob Simone, a newly arrived emigrant from France. She was somewhat his junior in years, but after a short courtship they were married. After this happy event, which took place in April, 1728, Mr. Brecht turned his attention to the business of future support. Following the example of his neighbors he had already marked out a tract of vacant land. It contained by a subsequent survey, 78 acres and was located in the rich limestone region of the Lebanon

valley, and covered with primeval forest of white oak and hickory. We give here a diagram of the tract on which he settled to show its surroundings.



After building a big dwelling for the use of his family, he began the work of clearing the land. Year after year portions of the tract were brought under cultivation, buildings for his horses and cattle erected, and an increasing family provided for. It was the ambition of every settler to get a title to the land he occupied, but it was only after 12 years of severe toil and rigid economy that Mr. Brecht accumulated sufficient ready money to pay for his holding. On the 30th of July, 1741, he obtained a patent from John, Thomas and Richard Penn, for the 78 acres he had occupied as a settler as stated in the patent, which is recorded in Patent Book vol. 8, page 353. In 1749 Mr. Brecht acquired by purchase from the Penns two other tracts of land in the same neighborhood, one of 100 acres, the other of 64 acres, making the extent of his landed estate about 250 acres. The patent is dated November 27th, 1749, and duly recorded in Patent Book, vol. 14, page 334. At the time of his last purchase his children were still at home assisting in the work of the farm. Jacob, the oldest son, being then 20 and David, the youngest, nine years of age. From the fact of the lines in the patent being bounded by adjoining owners, it is evident that the lands included therein were taken up and largely brought under cultivation long before the title was acquired.

As a rule when the children of a farmer become of legal age they desire to set up for themselves, and the family of Michael Brecht formed no exception. Jacob, the oldest son, was the first to leave the old homestead. He goes to Philadelphia, and is married in the German Reformed church of

that city on February 1, 1751, to Susanna Rittenhouse, a near relative of the celebrated David Rittenhouse [Penna. Archives, 2d series, vol. 8, p. 60.] When his second son, George, left home does not appear, but from his adventurous disposition it is not likely that he worked on the farm after his majority in 1752. In 1754 we find Michael, his third son, a resident of the town of Reading, to which place his fifth son, Peter, follows him in 1760. In the same year his fourth son, John, marries a daughter of Alexander Shaeffer, the founder of Shaefferstown, and his remaining son, David, a few years after, engaged in the milling business on the Swatara in Pinegrove township, Berks county, within 20 miles of Shaefferstown. His daughters have all married; Katharine to Peter Sheetz, of Heidelberg township; Maria to Ludwig Wittemeyer, neighbor; Sarah to a Mr. Jones, who subsequently removed to Pittsburg. His youngest daughter Christina, finds a husband in Philadelphia when she was but 18 years of age. Her marriage to Christopher Pechin on April 4, 1765, is recorded in the First Baptist church of that city [Penna. Archives, 2d series, vol. 8, p. 752.]

From the statements in Michael Brecht's will that he had already given his several children "as much as he wanted or could give them," it may be inferred that they were each advanced a portion of his estate as they severally left home to seek new relations in life—such advances consisting mostly of a family outfit usual in those days. In 1762 most of his children had drifted from the paternal domicile, and the stay of those who still remained (probably Sarah and Christina, being uncertain) Mr. Brecht concludes to give up his farm and on the 11th of May of that year he sells his estate of 246 acres and allowance which he had bought from the Penns to Yost Hoffman, for \$1,200. He continues, however, to reside at Shaefferstown until after the death of his wife Margareta in 1778. She was buried in the graveyard of the Heidelberg Reformed church, located at the village of Heidelberg, afterwards called Shaefferstown. There being no longer any of his family in the neighborhood—his son John having changed his place of residence to Fredericksburg, now in Lebanon county, Pa., in 1782, Mr. Brecht about this time removes to Reading, where his sons Michael and Peter were living with their families. In 1789 he makes his will, calling himself in the preface "Michael Brecht, Sen., of the town of Reading," and on September 13, 1794, at the ripe age of 88 years, he is gathered to his fathers, his remains being deposited in the German Reformed burying ground, then located

at the northeast corner of Washington and Sixth streets. Whether a tombstone marked his grave is not known, but if so it was lost in the removal of the dead to the Charles Evans cemetery, and his place of burial is unknown.

THE BIRTH REGISTER.

At the death of David Bright, a grandson of the elder Michael, in 1846, there was found with his effects by his son and executor Francis Bright, a registry of the names and births of his several children, and the dates of the death and place of burial of his wife, together with the date of his own death. It is in the form of a column on the shaft of which the inscriptions are written in German, the bottom of the column commencing with the name of Jacob, oldest son of the emigrant and continuing with the names of the other children in the order of birth—the top inscription recording the name of the youngest. This inscription, as the others are similar, ex uno disce omnes—is as follows: "In the year of our Lord Anno 1747, August 12, my daughter Christina was born." On the base of the monument is given the name of the elder Michael, his place of nativity, date of birth and year of emigration to America; also the names of his father and his own marriage to Margareta Simone. We give the inscription as it appears: "Michael Brecht, vater der obergemeinten 10 kinder ist geboren in dem Jahr Christus 1706, dem 28 Tag Mai in der Kur-Pfals, in dem Marktflecken Schriessheim an der Bergstrasse. Sein Vater war Johannes Brecht buirglicher Einwohner daselbst, ist von seiner Vaterland nach Pennsylvania gekommen dem—October, 1726. Hat hier verheirath an Margareta im Jahr 1728. Ihr Vater war Jacob Simone geboren Frantzoz." On the right of the base is written the date of the death (March 21, 1778) of his wife Margareta, and her burial in the churchyard in the town of Heidelberg; while on the left of the base is given the date of the death of Michael Brecht (September 13, 1794), and his burial in the town of Reading. It is also written in English, opposite his place of birth on the shaft, a statement that Michael Bright, Jr., died August 1, 1814.

This monumental registry must have been made in the lifetime of Michael Brecht the elder and after the death of his wife in 1778, as the inscriptions in German are all in the same handwriting, except the one recording his own death in 1794, which was obviously written by a different person. At the time it was given to the writer in 1892 by Francis Bright, the executor of David Bright, the paper was yellow with age, very much worn, and in pieces where

it was folded, doubtless the result of frequent handling. It has since been supplied with a durable paper back and placed under a glass frame for future preservation. The document is undoubtedly genuine and trustworthy as to its contents, as on its face it bears strong evidence of its having been in the possession of the elder Michael in his lifetime. It next came into the custody of his executor, Michael, Jr., and at his death was taken charge of by his son and executor David Bright, among whose papers it was discovered by his son Francis, who was also one of his executors.

* * *

But if anything were wanting to establish the genuine character of the document in question, it will be found in the correspondence of its statements with the

WILL OF MICHAEL BRECHT, THE ELDER.

Written in 1789 in German it was proved September 29, 1794, before Jacob Bower and is on file in the office of the Register of Wills, and contains the names of his ten children in the same order in which they are given in the registry above described, except that the sons are named first. It is a long document, and appears to be the testator's own composition. As it contains so many material facts as to his own life and his children's history, we give a summary of it with some fullness of details. He begins by calling himself Michael Brecht, the elder, of the town of Reading. Next he orders his executor to give to each of his ten children, viz., Jacob, George, Michael, John, Peter and David, and his daughters Katharine Sheetz, Maria Wittemeyer, Sarah Jones and Christina Pitchin, as much as he shall hereafter direct. He then gives Jacob five shillings because he is his first born son; and after reciting that he has already given to his several children as much of his estate as he chose or could, according to his means, he provides for a settlement of accounts with them by his executor as follows: Having loaned to his son Jacob £150, in August, 1786, for which he takes his bond with interest, the executor is directed to collect from Jacob £50 with interest, and then give him back his bond. As to his son George, the executor is to give to his lawfully begotten children £40, in equal shares. To Michael, who had given his father a bond dated April, 1784, for £150, the executor was to return his bond upon the payment of £50 with interest. In the case of his son John, he recites that as he has already before given to him for his portion the same as his brothers and sisters received, and has since lent him in ready cash £40 for which he gave his bond dated October, 1786, he directs his

executor to return his bond upon payment of the interest in full. As to Peter to whom he loaned £200, and took his bond, dated in April, 1788, he directs that upon his paying £100 with interest his bond should be returned to him. To his son David he had loaned "in ready cash £27, anno 1765." He accordingly directs that his bond be handed back to him and that he should be paid in addition £80 for his inheritance. For his daughter Katharine, he provides that in addition to what he has given her, she shall yet receive the sum of £30 for her portion. For his daughter Maria, inasmuch as he holds the bond of her husband Ludwig Wittemeyer for £50, dated in April, 1773, she is to receive back the said bond with the interest accrued and in addition the sum of £20 for her inheritance; and to his daughter Sarah Jones, in addition to what he had advanced her, she is to be paid the sum of £80. To his youngest daughter Christina Pitchin, he directs that £100 be paid in addition to what she has already received.

* * *

Perhaps nothing so clearly shows the peaceful and fatherly character of the testator, as the closing portion of his will. Apprehensive that some of his children might be dissatisfied with the division he has made of his estate, he "advises such to have patience and to learn from his own mistakes and be wise; and that each of them may at once do right and be at peace." He then appoints his loving son Michael as his executor, with full power to give satisfaction to any just and reasonable complaint which may be made.

NATURALIZATION.

By the act of Parliament of the 13th of George the Second, Chapter 7, it was provided that from and after July 1, 1740, all persons who shall reside for seven years or more in any of His Majesty's colonies, and take the oath of allegiance to the sovereign of Great Britain, and make, repeat and subscribe the Declaration of Fidelity, and affirm the abjuration oath and subscribe his profession of the Christian belief (for which he was to pay two shillings), he should be given a certificate of naturalization under the great seal. A somewhat similar law was enacted by the Pennsylvania assembly in 1742. In pursuance of these acts, Michael Brecht, of Lancaster county, appeared before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, held September 24-25, 1744, took and subscribed the several oaths prescribed and became a naturalized citizen of the province. [See 2d vol. Penna. Archives (second series), page 368 and also page 347.]

* * *

It does not appear that naturalization was a prerequisite to the holding of title

to lands in Pennsylvania, as Michael Brecht had received a patent to his tract of 78 acres from the Penns as early as July 30, 1741, which was duly recorded in the Patent Book of the province, and gave an indefeasible title to the purchaser and the fact will be recalled that as early as 1682 William Penn, while yet in England, sold 15,000 acres near Philadelphia to the Frankfort company, of Germany, represented by that prominent pioneer Francis Pastorius, who accompanied the German emigrants sent by the company to America as early as 1684. In this purchase the lands in and about Germantown were included and after an official survey, deeds for lots were granted to the settlers by the company, which are to this day the foundation of titles to land in that neighborhood.

* * *

But the Act of Naturalization had its significance in that it gave political rights to the foreign settlers in the province, who were always eager to avail themselves of the privilege. And so extended did the right of suffrage become in the German and Scotch-Irish settlements before the War of Independence, that the foreign element had a decided voice in the Colonial Assembly, and forced the retirement of the Quakers from the dominant position in political affairs they had so long enjoyed under the Proprietary government.

PRIMOGENITURE.

In the charter granted by Charles II. to William Penn in 1681, it was provided that the common law of England should be in force in the province until altered by Penn, his successors or assigns or the Colonial Legislature. At the four days' session of the Provincial Assembly, held at Chester in 1684, a series of laws was enacted for the government of the province. Among these enactments was a law in reference to intestate estates, which gave the widow one-third of the personal property, and the interest of one-third of the real estate of her deceased husband, after payment of debts, and the remaining two-thirds to be divided equally to his children, except that the eldest son was to have a double portion. The provision in reference to giving a double portion to the eldest son was reaffirmed by the legislature in 1693, and again in 1705 and continued to be the law of the commonwealth until 1794, when this relic of feudalism was abolished and the children of an intestate shared equally in the property of their deceased parents. It is well known that the sentiment of the German settlers was opposed to all forms of primogeniture, even to the limited extent of preferring the oldest son by giving him a double portion, and they generally managed to defeat this

provision of the law by disposing of their estate by last making a will. In the will of Michael Brecht, the elder, there is a recognition of the law giving a preference to the eldest son, for to avoid all cavil, the testator gives his son Jacob five shillings beforehand "because he is my first born son." In the will of Peter Brecht, the fifth son of the emigrant, made in 1793, when the law was still in force, there is a similar provision in which the testator "gives to Jacob twenty Spanish milled dollars, to be in full of his birthright as my oldest son," after which he directs the remainder of his estate to be equally divided among all his children.

THE NAME "BRIGHT."

The original spelling of the family name was B-r-e-c-h-t, as is shown by the Lutheran records at Schriessheim in the Palatinate, in which the names of the ancestors of the emigrant for three consecutive generations are so written. In addition to this, the emigrant always wrote his name "Brecht" as appears in all extant documents. In his application to be naturalized in 1744, in the deeds of lease and release of lot on the corner of Thomas and Callowhill streets, in the town of Reading, to his son Michael in 1761, in the writer's possession, as also in his last will and testament on file in the Register's office, the same spelling is preserved. His son Peter has also signed himself "Brecht" in his last will. It is for this reason that I have designated them in the preceding sketch as Michael Brecht the elder, and Peter Brecht. In the second generation of the Bright family in America, the sons of the emigrant retained the same spelling in early life, as witness the marriage record of the Reformed church at Philadelphia in 1751, of his eldest son Jacob, the deeds of lease and release by Michael the elder to his son Michael, Jr., in October, 1761, above referred to, and the early official assessment rolls of his sons John and David, and the signature of his son Peter to deeds executed by him in his lifetime, as well as his signature to his last will filed in the Register's office at Reading in 1793. These all recognize Brecht as the original family name.

* * *

When the change from Brecht to Bright was made is uncertain. It began, however, in the second generation. The first use of the word Bright I find in the signature of Michael, the third son, to the administration account on the estate of Conrad Bower, whose widow he married, filed in 1768, which he signed jointly with her. He there signs his name Michael Bright, and in the deed to him for a tannery and twelve acres of land in Alsace given to him as grantee by James Boone in 1775, he is

likewise named Michael Bright. So in a deed to him from his son Jacob, for a lot in Reading in 1793 he is named as Michael Bright, and in all documents subsequent to 1778 signed by him, including his last will in 1814, he signs his name Michael Bright, which after his father's death in 1794 is changed to Michael Bright, Sen., as he had a son by the same name. He does not appear to have written his own name as Michael, Jr., probably for the reason that his father used Brecht as the family name while he wrote Bright. His oldest brother Jacob, of Philadelphia, seems to have changed his spelling of the family name to Bright at an early day, as in a commission to him as captain in 1776, he is named as Captain Jacob Bright. In the third generation the use of Bright as the family name appears to have been generally adopted. The name Brecht has entirely disappeared.

Why in anglicising the word Brecht it took the form Bright is not clear. The word Brecht is not to be found in the German lexicon. The nearest approach to it is Pracht, signifying pomp, splendor, magnificence, and figuratively brightness. In its adjective form of praechtig, we have the family name by a change of the first letter. Its meaning is the same as the noun form, viz., splendid, bright, and it is frequently used in connection with Tag or Morgen, signifying a fine, bright day or morning. It is not unlikely the Bright family of England may have been descended from the Brechts of Germany, and that this change in the name was known to the emigrant's family. With this explanation we conclude the sketch of the

FIRST GENERATION IN AMERICA, VIZ.,

1) Michael Brecht, 1706-1794, 2nd, 1728
Margareta Simone, 1708-1778.

The next generation is made up of the children of the emigrant, whose names and births, taken from the family registry above described, are as follows:

Jacob Brecht, b. April 13, 1729.

George Brecht, b. February 9, 1731.

Michael Brecht, b. March 24, 1732.

Katharine Brecht, b. April 6, 1734.

John Brecht, b. February 20, 1736.

Peter Brecht, b. May 13, 1738.

David Brecht, b. August 9, 1740.

Marie Brecht, b. August 1, 1742.

Sarah Brecht, b. January 19, 1745.

Christina Brecht, b. August 12, 1747.

The above children constitute the SECOND GENERATION

of the Bright family in America, and so far as the facts relating to their biography and the names of their immediate descendants have been learned, they are given in the order of birth.

(2) Jacob Bright, 1729-1802, was born in Heidelberg township, Lancaster county, Pa., was brought up on the farm and remained with his parents till he was of age. We next find him in Philadelphia, where he engages in business and in 1751 marries Susanna Rittenhouse, 1726-1808, of Roxboro. How a country lad living in a remote part of Lancaster county should get to Philadelphia at that early day may be a matter of some surprise. But it must be borne in mind that Philadelphia was the metropolis of the province. All the principal roads of the interior led directly to it. Its extensive shipping, bringing the products of the outside world to its port made it the great mart of commerce, and it supplied the western settlements with all they needed, not only in cotton and woollen goods, sugar, coffee and tobacco, but also in many of the luxuries of life. These articles required transportation and the work of teaming flour and grain to Philadelphia and returning with goods to supply the settlers was largely the business of the well-to-do farmer who made his annual or semi-annual trips for that purpose. In these trips they were often accompanied by one or more members of the family. That Michael Brecht, the elder, on such occasions took with him his oldest son Jacob may readily be believed, and what the young man saw familiarized him with the country he traversed as well as the people he met. His early experience prepared him for his future settlement.

Jacob Bright must have had considerable force of character, as we find him about the year 1770 in partnership with Christopher Pechin, a native of France, engaged in the coasting trade, shipping goods to and from Savannah and other Southern ports. After the War of the Revolution had opened he engaged in the service of the Continental Congress, then sitting at Philadelphia, and under a commission as captain he raised a company of 90 men, including non-commissioned officers, whose roster is given in vol. 13 Penna. Archives (2d series) page 574. In this patriotic duty he was warmly assisted by his partner, who contributed largely to the expenses necessarily incurred. As to his subsequent history we have little information. He had seven children, viz., Michael, George, William, Mary, Jacob, Susan and Michael 2d.

(3) George Bright, 1731-1769, was also a native of Heidelberg township, Lancaster county; where the rest of his brothers and sisters were born and reared, and assisted his father in clearing the farm and bringing it under cultivation. He was of a roving and adventurous disposition, which did not

allow him to do service at home after attaining his majority. There is a general tradition in the family that he joined Daniel Boone, the Kentucky pioneer, in his incursions into that state, and that he was there killed by the Indians. Whether the tradition has a reliable basis may depend upon the probable acquaintance of the two in early life. They were nearly the same age, Bright having been born in 1731 and Boone in 1733. In referring to the biographies of Boone in the encyclopedias in the city library, we discover no facts which favor such early acquaintance. Chambers' encyclopedia says Boone was born in Virginia in 1735, while Appleton states that his grandfather, Geo. Boone, emigrated from England with his family in 1717 and settled at Bristol, Bucks county, Pa., that his son, Squire Boone, the father of Daniel, also settled there; that Daniel was born in that county in 1735 and that Squire Boone, with his family removed to the neighborhood of the Yadkin river in North Carolina in 1750. A third encyclopedia, the American, also says that the Boone's first settled in Bucks county, where Daniel was born in 1735 and that the family of Squire Boone, the father of Daniel, went to North Carolina in 1750. In that year, if these accounts are true, Daniel was only 15 years of age, and there was little probability that George Bright had any acquaintance with him or had even heard of him.

But subsequent investigation has proved that the previous accounts as to Daniel Boone's nativity are erroneous; that while the elder Boone left England with his family in 1717 he settled in Philadelphia, where the Friends, of which he was a prominent member, chiefly resided; that in the following year he removed to the neighborhood of Oley, then in Philadelphia county; that he took up a tract of land on Monocacy creek in 1718 and that his children settled in the immediate neighborhood. Of them, his son Squire Boone, the father of Daniel, owned the Boone farm in Exeter, having purchased it in November, 1730, where his son Daniel was born October 22, 1733, and at the age of 17 removed with his father's family to North Carolina in 1750. Perhaps the most conclusive evidence of Daniel's place of nativity will be found in the current history of Exeter township. In the spring of 1741 the inhabitants of Oley, having long suffered inconvenience for want of a township organization, applied for that purpose to the court at Philadelphia. The petition was granted and the township of Oley was duly surveyed and organized. It was found, however, that at least 50 families living in the south-

western part of the territory had not been included in the lines of the new township, and the court was at once petitioned for relief. The petition contained 16 names, among them Squire Boone's. Upon its presentation to the court a commission was authorized to examine and report. The result was that in September of the same year the township of Exeter was organized—the survey of the lands, which included 13,500 acres, having been made by Geo. Boone, Esq.

Mr. Montgomery, in his history of Berks county says that John F. Watson in a paper read before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, May 17, 1853, was the first to combat the statement of Daniel Boone's nativity being in Bucks county. He was followed by a paper from Dr. Peter G. Bertolette, of Oley, entitled "Oley and Vicinity," deposited with the Pennsylvania Historical Society in 1865, in which he gives the result of extended conversations with the older members of the Boone family in Exeter, in which from the traditions of the family and other data it is clearly shown that Squire Boone settled in the part of Exeter, then Oley, near the Friends' Meeting House and that his son Daniel was born there in 1733. The doctor had been for many years their family physician. Mr. Nicholas Jones has also contributed an exhaustive article, though somewhat diffuse, on the subject of the Boone family, which was published in the Reading Times and Dispatch of October 29, 1879. He quotes largely from Dr. Bertolette's papers and relates a visit to the Boone farm in Exeter. It was then owned by James Lee, a surveyor and conveyancer, who said that Daniel Boone was born there; that his father Squire Boone had owned it 20 years; that he had bought it from Ralph Ashton in 1730 and had sold it upon his removal to North Carolina in 1750 to William Magrudge, by deed of April 11th of that year. Mr. Jones also recounts a conversation with Thomas Lincoln, of Exeter, who died about 1759 at the age of 87, in which he describes Daniel Boone's visit to Exeter in 1788 to see his relatives. He was accompanied by his wife Sarah and his son Nathan. They had traveled on horseback from their home in Kentucky, and the journey had taken three weeks. Upon reading the evidence contained in the above papers there can be no doubt as to Berks county being the nativity of the Kentucky pioneer.

It is easy to see how George Bright might have become acquainted with Boone. Living less than 30 miles from each other, and Boone's uncle George being a practical surveyor, whose services were frequently required in the

survey of the vacant land in that part of the province it is quite likely that he was called upon by Michael Brecht in 1741 to make a survey of the tract of 78 acres on which he had settled. In his mission to Heidelberg for this purpose George Boone, Esq., may have taken his nephew Daniel with him to assist in making the survey, as he was old enough to act in that capacity. Such a visit would have naturally brought about an acquaintance between young Boone and Bright which may have ripened into intimacy and thus fully account for George Bright subsequently joining Boone's expedition into Kentucky in 1769, which is fixed as the probable time of his death.

That an early meeting of these congenial lads took place in 1741 and that it was kept up between them is not history, but the surroundings are sufficient to account for the family tradition in regard to George Bright. It will be seen by reference to the will of his father, that the testator (1789) gives to the children of George the portion which would have come to their father, who was undoubtedly dead at the time the will was made. Neither the names of his wife nor the birth or names of his children have been ascertained.

(4) Michael Bright, 1732-1814, the third son of the emigrant, besides assisting in the work on the father's farm, had learned the trade of a saddler, and in March, 1753, he attained his majority. The county of Berks had been organized the year before out of parts of Philadelphia, Lancaster and Chester counties, and the town of Reading had become the county seat. It was admirably located at the fords of the Schuylkill, where the great Tulpehocken road crossed the river. It had been regularly laid out by the Penns in 1748 and bid fair to become a thriving and important town. Philip Erpf, a neighbor of Michael Brecht, in Heidelberg, had applied to the land office of the proprietors in 1731 for a lot on the west side of Callowhill street in the town of Reading, and had obtained a patent for it dated July 16, 1752, the consideration being the payment of an annual ground rent of seven shillings from March 1, 1752, and the building of a substantial dwelling house on the same, at least 20 feet square, with a brick or stone chimney, within two years. The lot, 60 feet in front by 230 deep, was numbered in the general plan of the town 391, and was situate on the northwest corner of Callowhill and Thomas streets (Fifth and Washington) where the Farmers' Hotel now stands.

The new town appeared to offer great advantages to settlers, and as the

neighborhood of Shaefferstown promised little prospect of success in his trade it was thought best that Michael the younger should remove thither. Accordingly in anticipation of such removal his father bought of Erpf lot No. 391 above described, for the consideration of £90. The deed is dated January 31, 1753, and is witnessed by Conrad Weiser and Conrad Bower.

Probably in the same year which by the act of the Provincial Assembly of 1751, commenced on the first of January, 1752, N. S., instead of the 25th of March, his son Michael moved to Reading and in compliance with the conditions of the patent puts up a building on the new lot to accommodate his business as a saddler as well as the present demands of a wife and family. So prosperous is his business that in 1761 he is enabled to obtain the title from his father of the Erpf lot originally intended for him, and accordingly on October 2, 1761, Michael Brecht and Margaret his wife, execute a lease of said lot to their son Michael "to enable him to accept a grant of the reversion" and on the day following they further execute a release to him to the reversion for the consideration of £100. It is probable that much of this consideration had been previously paid, as in 1760, if tradition is correct, Michael the son erected a large two story stone dwelling house on the lot with a front of 32 feet and a depth of 34 feet. Here he carried on his business as a saddler for a number of years.

In 1754 his oldest son Jacob was born. Sometime after the birth of Michael, his second son, in 1759, his wife died, and not being inclined to remain a widower, he paid court to Kitty Bower, the widow of Conrad Bower, whose maiden name was Huber or Hoover, as it is now spelled, and in 1767 they were married.

Conrad Bower had died intestate in 1765, leaving a widow and six children. He was a person of large means and had for many years kept the well known tavern on the north side of Penn Square adjoining on the east the "Old White Store" of Conrad Weiser, the noted Indian agent. From Weiser he had bought for £50 the eastern moiety of lot No. 3, just above where the present Second National Bank now stands, as early as 1752, and having previously purchased lot No. 4 from the proprietaries he owned a front of 90 feet, which he used in connection with his business. The inn he conducted was probably the oldest in the town. He owned besides a number of lots in Reading, in addition to several tracts of land adjacent. As his real estate, which was valued at £3,500 was not

partitioned till 1781, it is probable that the widow Bower continued at the old stand the business which her husband had followed. I am inclined to believe that she was the landlady of the establishment at the time she was married to Michael Bright in 1767, and that after their marriage the tavern was continued in Bright's name until the Bower estate was partitioned in 1781 at the instance of Captain Jacob Bower, the oldest son. This view will reconcile the tradition that the building erected in 1760 on the Callowhill street lot (No. 391) was not used as a hotel till 1817, and it accords with the fact that Michael Bright in a deed to him from James Boone for a tannery and tract of land in Alsace, now in Reading, dated March 25, 1775, and duly recorded, is described as an innkeeper, while in a release to him as guardian of John Soder, dated May 24, 1764, he is named as a saddler. The view above suggested is also in accordance with the statement in a number of deeds of property granted to him or conveyed by him subsequent to 1781, in which he is invariably called a yeoman, which appears to have been the usual designation of a person living in the town and farming land outside of the town limits. It is probable that after his second marriage he disposed of his saddlery business and rented his residence on Callowhill street to his successor.

Just before the outbreak of the Revolution, viz., in 1774, Michael Bright was elected one of the commissioners of Berks county, which office he held for three years. It was at that time a position of great importance and responsibility. As with the opening of hostilities the Provincial Assembly had ceased to meet, the committee of safety at Philadelphia had assumed its powers and under their authority with representatives from the several counties, the commissioners were empowered not only to levy the quota of troops required for the Continental army, but to provide for their support. The records show that repeated levies of taxes were made by the commissioners during the war in order to raise funds to arm and provision the troops which were furnished by the county. It was while acting as commissioner in December, 1774 that Michael Bright was appointed as one of the "Committee of Observation" for the county. The formation of this committee was recommended by the Congress of Deputies from the several colonies which met in Philadelphia in September, 1774. Pursuant to such recommendation a call was issued for a meeting of the voters of the county. It was held at the court house in the town of Reading on December 5,

1774, when fifteen prominent citizens were chosen to act on said committee. Among the associates of Mr. Bright were Edward Biddle, Esq., Christian Schultze, Balser Geehr, Mark Burd, George Nagle, Sebastian Levan and others. The duties of this committee were to collect funds for the relief of the citizens of Boston, to watch those who were disaffected and require them to give up their arms, and in general to provide for the common defense.

Before the close of the war Mr. Bright had acquired considerable real estate consisting largely of out-lots and small tracts of land near the town. These he farmed up to the time of his death, housing his stock, horses and cattle in the extensive stabling on the rear of his Callowhill street residence. In 1810 he sold to his son David for the consideration of £400, the vacant part of his lot No. 391, lying immediately north of his house. It contained 28 feet in front on Fifth street by 230 feet in depth. Upon the lot David was then erecting a three-story brick dwelling for himself and family. It is still standing and was occupied by him until his death in 1846.

Michael Bright had four children by his second wife, viz., Sarah, David, Peter and John, the last two dying in the lifetime of their parents. He died at Reading August 1, 1814, his widow surviving him but a few months. They were both buried in the Reformed graveyard on the northeast corner of Sixth and Washington streets, and their remains were afterwards removed to the Bright lot in the Charles Evans cemetery where the original tombstones to their memory still stand.

HIS WILL.

The will of (4) Michael Bright, Sen., was probated at Reading on August, 1814, and directed that certain portions of his real estate, viz., the lower meadow of five acres, two Hockley out-lots of five acres each, a lot and a half lot in Reading, one-half of his tract of woodland in Alsace, the division line being the road leading north from the Hill road, east of Penn's Mount, through said tract to "Hesser's" and a tract of 145 acres in Schuylkill county, be appraised and then gave his son Jacob the choice of taking the same or any part at the valuation that might be fixed. Whatever part Jacob declines to take was to be sold by his executors at public sale. To his son David with similar conditions, he devises the upper meadow (on Rose creek valley), a tract of seven or eight acres adjoining the Spring Garden tanyard, and extending across the road to Philadelphia (where the Perkiomen pike turns toward Den-

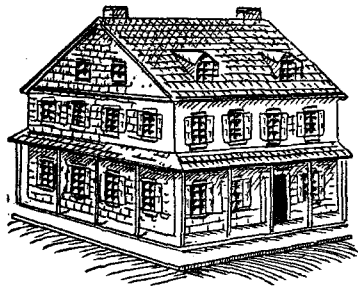
gler's), two town lots, three small fields containing about seventeen acres, one of them an orchard, lying between the great road to Maxatawny and Adam Rapp's land, another lot of nearly five acres in Alsace adjoining the Schuylkill, the other part of his tract of woodland in Alsace, and a tract of 145 acres in Schuylkill county.

* * *

Under the same conditons he gives to his daughter Sarah Rupert his two plantations in Hemlock township, Columbia county, one containing 250 acres, the other 200 acres, and to Rebecca Shearer, her daughter, a half-lot in Reading. The appraisement is to be made by six persons, two to be selected by each of his above named children, and said six appraisers are to choose two more to represent his son Michael (removed to Tennessee) "as he cannot be here." After having made ample provision for his "dear wife Catharine," who survived him but a few months, and giving his son David the further right to take the "Homestead" at the valuation, he appoints his sons Jacob and David to be his executors.

* * *

We present below an engraving of his mansion at the corner of Fifth and Washington streets, as it appeared at the time of his death, and before its conversion into the "Farmers' Hotel" in 1817. The building was erected in 1760, but additional stories have been added since.



(5) Katharine Bright, 1734, was the fourth child of Michael Brecht the elder. Little is known of her history, but she appears to have married one Peter Sheetz, of Heidelberg township, and if the statement as to the Sheetz family in the History of Lebanon County is to be credited, she was living at the death of her husband in 1795, and had three children, Francis, Elizabeth and Peter. In his will, proved in 1794, her father bequeaths to her £30 in addition to what he had already given her. I have not been able to obtain any further facts respecting herself or her family.

(6) John Bright, 1736-1817, appears to have remained with his parents until he was 24 years of age, when he married Margaret Shaeffer, 1744-1818, a daughter of Alexander Shaeffer, the founder of Shaefferstown. In 1782 he was owner of 30 acres of land in Bethel township, some fifteen or twenty miles from his former home. He afterwards removed to Jonestown, then called Stumpstown, in the same township, where he resided till his death in 1817, his wife having died the previous year. In his will, to which he signs his name in English, "John Bright," on file at Lebanon, after giving his grand-daughter Sarah Stroh a number of specific legacies, such as a bed, spinning wheel, cow, hay in stable, and the use of his houses and lots in Jonestown for one year, together with the grain in the ground, and also giving to his daughter Sarah, wife of John Herman his "brass pan," he directs his executor Martin Merly to convert his estate into cash, and divide the proceeds equally among all his children, without naming them. Judging from his will and surroundings the testator appears to have accumulated by strict economy a comfortable estate, chiefly in the business of farming. By his wife Margaret he had eleven children, whose names will be given hereafter.

* * *

(7) Peter Brecht, 1738-1793, after staying with his father during his minority and learning the trade of a saddler, followed his brother Michael to Reading in 1760, where he worked at his trade until 1775. In the fall of that year he enters into articles of agreement (in which he is described as a saddler) with Jacob Kern, for a tract of land in Cumru, along the river Schuylkill, opposite the town of Reading, containing 95 acres. The consideration was £515, viz. £276 5s. to the Proprietaries, £66 18s. 16d. owing to Philip Heck, and £172 to the grantor. Kern had no deed, but held possession under a warrant and survey from the Penns. "except one acre to accommodate the Proprietary ferry to the town of Reading." After obtaining possession he applied for and obtained from the court a license to keep a tavern, which business he continued in connection with the farming of his land until his death. As the deed of the Kern land gives a measurement of 231 perches along the Schuylkill it must have had a river frontage of nearly two-thirds of a mile (3,546 feet) and included the bluff opposite the city, the ridge up the river for a considerable distance, and a long space below the ferry.

* * *

From the old brick house (still standing) in which Peter Brecht kept tavern, located on the north side of the old Tul-

pehocken road, at the point where the present turnpike trends east to the bridge, the way to the "Ferry" led directly to the Schuylkill and continued up the river bank about 200 yards. It was located just above the present bridge, where large iron rings were fastened into the rock at the base of the bluff to support the ferry ropes across the river. The ford was about fifty yards below the bridge, and was used by the crossing teams when the water was low. They reached the opposite bank, about the foot of Cherry street. The ferry enjoyed a monopoly of the travel when the river was not readily fordable—but upon the erection of the bridge by the county in the year 1800, its revenues gradually fell off. Upon the completion of the Union canal from the Susquehanna at Middletown to Reading the ferry was abandoned. While it continued the teams ferried over the river reached the town by a roadway which many persons now living will recall, along the north wing wall of the bridge.

By his wife Catharine, Peter Brecht had eight children, viz., Jacob, George, Catharine, John, Maria, Sarah, Peter and Michael. His widow survived him nearly thirty years.

He made a will which is signed in German "Peter Brecht," in which he names all his children. After giving the oldest son twenty Spanish milled dollars, he orders the balance of his estate to be equally divided among them and appoints his brother Michael and his son-in-law Frederick Heller, Esq., as his executors.

(S) David Bright, 1749-1808, remained with his parents until after the sale of the homestead to Yost Hoffman in 1762. He was a miller by trade and followed the business for several years in the neighborhood of Shaefferstown. Having obtained from his father in 1765 the sum of £27 as an advancement, in addition to what each of his children received on coming of age, he removed to a mill-seat in the valley of the Little Swatara, above the Blue Mountains in Berks county, about twenty miles north of Shaefferstown. Here he paid attention to Mary Grant, a neighbor's daughter, and soon after married her. When the township of Pinegrove was organized by the court of Berks county in 1771, the place at which David settled was included in it. His name "David Brecht," appears on the assessment roll of that year and is continued on each annual list up to and including 1783. The assessment list for 1784 is lost, and on that of 1785 and subsequent years, his name is no longer borne. About the year 1784 he removes to Greenbriar county, Virginia, where he appears to

have carried on the occupation of farming on a small scale, until his death in 1808, leaving to survive him his widow, Mary, by whom he had six children, viz., Michael, Jesse, David G., George, Mary and Margaret.

* * *

There is a tradition among the descendants of David (1740) that he was conducting a grist mill in Berks county at the time Washington was encamped at Valley Forge, 1777-78, and that he furnished a large supply of flour to the American army at that place; that he was paid in Continental currency, which by its rapid depreciation made him bankrupt.

Before I ascertained that David Brecht lived in Pinegrove township, Berks county, which I discovered within the last month, the statement was sent me by one of his great-grandsons then living in Virginia, that his grandfather David G. was born in Greenbriar county, Va., in 1775. And when another descendant in like degree communicated the tradition of David's supplying Washington's army with flour, I expressed the opinion that the tradition was an idle tale, as the fact was impossible if David lived in Greenbriar as early as 1775. But my last correspondent was not convinced and assured me that some facts would yet come to light which would fully verify the family tradition. She was right. Very recently in going over the first page of the assessment list of the town of Reading for 1775 I happened to notice the name "David Brecht" on the next preceding page, which contained the names of taxables for Pinegrove township. The fact appeared strange, but in following up the discovery I found that David Brecht was on the assessment list for Pinegrove when the township was first established in 1771, and continued thereon until 1783, but disappeared from the list in 1785. This old record singularly confirms the late statement of one of David's grandsons, that his grandfather came to Greenbriar county in 1784 or 1785.

* * *

Now as Pinegrove township was a remote part of Berks county, and David Brecht was a resident there in 1777-78, and a miller by trade, and especially as Washington by direction of the Continental Congress had issued a proclamation to all the inhabitants within 70 miles of his camp at Valley Forge to send their supplies of grain and flour to that place to feed his famished soldiers, under penalty of being seized and forfeited to the state, and as it is current history that the country about Lebanon sent large supplies to the camp, there is every reason to credit the family tradition thus singularly verified.

By his last will filed in Greenbriar County, David gives his wife, Mary, a number of specific legacies, viz: A horse, saddle and bridle, two beds, 2 cows, the necessary kitchen furniture, also 12 bushels of wheat and £70, to be paid by my son Jesse and possession of the cabin he lives in for life. He then gives his son Michael six acres of land with house and stable, and the balance of his plantation to his son Jesse, who is to pay also £75 to his executors. After giving to two of his grandchildren £20, he bequeaths the residue of his estate to his sons David and George, and his son-in-law, Jno. Moore.

(9) Maria Brecht, 1742.—I am unable to give any details as to the second daughter of the emigrant beyond the fact contained in his will, that she was married to Ludwig Wittmeyer, of Lancaster county.

(10) Sarah Brecht, 1745.—Beyond the fact that her husband, a Mr. Jones, after their marriage moved to Pittsburg, I know nothing.

(11) Christina Brecht, 1747-1835, was the youngest daughter of the elder Michael, and was married to Christopher Pechin, of Philadelphia, in 1763, when scarcely eighteen years of age. Her marriage is somewhat romantic. In the bloom of girlhood she left Heidelberg to visit the family of her older brother Jacob at Philadelphia. Here she met for the first time Christopher Pechin, who had lately emigrated from France and made his home in Philadelphia. He had been for some time a partner of Jacob Bright in the shipping business, trading with the Southern ports and the West Indies. Miss Brecht is described as a lovely girl, not five feet tall, of simple manners, pleasing address, fresh complexion and quite attractive. At all events Mr. Pechin fell in love with her, and after a short courtship they were married. She appears to have lived happily with her husband in a spacious mansion on Front street, until his death in 1779, at the age of 42 years. They had six children, viz., Mary, Christopher, John, Peter, William and George. Mr. Pechin was an invalid for some years before his death, but took an active and patriotic interest in the war with Great Britain, and is said to have equipped at his own expense the company which his brother-in-law Jacob Bright had raised in the fall of 1776. During the occupation of Philadelphia by General Howe after the battle of Brandywine in 1777, they were forced to give up their residence, which was used to quarter British troops while they held the city. After the retreat of the British army through Jersey in June, 1778, they found their house greatly abused by the reckless conduct of the soldiery. Here she

brought up her family of six in respectability and comfort, and after they had left the old homestead she continued to occupy it till her death at the advanced age of 88 years.

Having been early entrusted with the care of her husband's estate, she is said to have managed it with skill and judgment. She was an independent little woman with great self-reliance, but she appears to have had little confidence in the banking institutions of the city as it is reported that after her death large sums of money were found secreted in different parts of the house by her legal representatives. During the later years of her life she lived alone with a single trusted servant as her companion, and although visited frequently by her children and grandchildren, she declined all assistance proffered by them.

For the purpose of ready reference we present in condensed form the persons belonging to the

SECOND GENERATION.

(2) Jacob, 1729-1802, m. Susanna Rittenhouse, 1729-1805.

(3) George, 1751-1769, m.

(4) Michael, 1732-1814, m. first Sarah Stoner, 1734-1774; second, Catharine Bower, 1732-1814.

(5) Katharine, 1734, m. Peter Sheetz, 1731-1795.

(6) John, 1736-1817, m. Margaret Shaeffer, 1744-1816.

(7) Peter, 1738-1793, m. Catharine —, 1762-1822.

(8) David, 1740-1805, m. Mary Grant.

(9) Maria, 1742, m. Ludwig Wittmeyer.

(10) Sarah, 1745, m. — Jones.

(11) Christina, 1747-1835, m. Christopher Pechin, 1737-1779.

The immediate descendants of the above-named ten children of the emigrant, constituting the

THIRD GENERATION.

so far as we have secured their names, are as follows:

Of (2) JACOB BRIGHT, who had seven children, viz.:

(12) Michael, b. 1752, died in infancy.

(13) George, 1753-1786, m. Mary Moulton.

(14) William, 1756-1810, m. Mary Roberts.

(15) Mary, 1760-1810, m. Captain Edward Burrows.

(16) Michael, 1762-1812, m. Elizabeth Long, 1766-1810.

He was known as General Michael Bright, but in what service he obtained his military title I am not informed. He was also at one time Flour Inspector of the commonwealth, probably under the appointment of Governor Mifflin.

(17) Jacob, 1764-1808, unmarried.

(18) Susan, 1766-1784, unmarried.

Of (3) GEORGE BRIGHT, who had a wife and children, as appears by his father's will, but their names are not known.

Of (4) MICHAEL BRIGHT, who had children as follows, by his first wife:
(19) Jacob, 1754-1815, m. Eve Rose, 1756-1826.

Jacob Bright was a brewer by occupation and conducted a large brewery on the east side of Fourth street, below Franklin, in the town of Reading.

He had purchased of John Spohn as early as October, 1775, the extensive brewery which Spohn had previously carried on, for the consideration of £600. The property had 120 feet front lots, 272 and 273 South Queen street (now Fourth street), on which, besides the brewery buildings, was erected a stone dwelling, still standing. Bright was engaged in the brewing business until his death in 1815, during which period it was a place of great resort for the townspeople, who were largely German emigrants or of German descent. He appeared to have been a person of great energy and activity and was for many years the chief clerk in the county commissioner's office. He died prematurely in his 61st year. The brewery was carried on by his widow for some years after his death. He left nine children to survive him, viz., Daniel R., Catharine, Joseph, Susanna, Jacob, Mary, Margaret, Sarah and Elizabeth.

By his will he gave his wife the use of his brewery and dwelling for life, together with the interest of £800. To his nephew and niece, Amos B. Yeager and Catharine Yeager, who lived with him after the death of their parents, each the sum of £350, and the balance of his estate equally among "his heirs." His sons in law, Daniel Rose and John Hoff, were appointed his executors.

(20) Michael, Jr., 1753-1843, m. Louisa

Michael Bright, Jr., was a tanner by trade and followed the business for a number of years. His father had purchased of James Boone in 1775 the old Boone or Spring Garden Tannery, including five acres of land. It was situated on the road leading to Philadelphia, at the point where the Perkiomen pike turns to Dengler's, the part on the pike being owned by the late John Endlich. It was expected by his father that Michael, Jr., would by successfully conducting the tannery be enabled to pay for it in the course of time. In this Michael, Sen., was disappointed, and it was then conveyed by deed of March 18, 1799, to his son David. In 1800 Michael, the tanner, removes with his family to Green county, in East Tennessee, and his name no longer appears on the assessment list for Reading. By his wife Louisa he had seven children, viz.,

Michael, Charles, David, Catharine, Rachel, Elizabeth and Mary. Many of his descendants still live in that state.

(21) Sarah Bright, 1768-1848, m. Leonard Rupert, 1763-1848. At the time they were married Mr. Rupert was living in Reading and had been connected with the United States Navy. Some time after their marriage it was arranged that they should move to Columbia county, on the east branch of the Susquehanna, where in Hemlock township the father of Sarah owned two plantations, one containing 250 acres, the other 200 acres. Here they remained, engaged in the business of farming, and reared a family of twelve children. (4) Michael, Sen., took a great interest in their welfare and paid them frequent visits. In his will he devised to his daughter Sarah the two tracts of land in Columbia county, where they have a host of descendants.

They had twelve children, to wit: Catharine, Peter, Leonard B., Rebecca, Bright, Mary, Sarah, Elizabeth, Rhoda, Lavina, Harriet and Charles. Mr. Rupert was appointed one of the associate judges of Columbia county, and served the office with great credit.

(22) David, 1771-1846, m. Catharine Hottenstein, 1771-1852, a daughter of William Hottenstein, of Cumru township.

David Bright was the third son of (4) Michael Bright, Sen., and was engaged in farming several tracts of land in the neighborhood of Reading, and assisting his father, who followed the same occupation. He must have been quite successful, as in 1799 he purchases the Boone Tannery property from his father for £650, and acquired several other tracts of land about the year 1806. In 1810 he buys for £100 cash and £300 payable after the death of his father, the northern portion of lot 391 on which he built a three-story dwelling house to accommodate his increasing family.

David Bright was a good representative of the Bright family. Small in stature, as were all his children, of economical habits, great industry, and of sterling integrity, he enjoyed the confidence and respect of the community in a marked degree. He was elected one of the county commissioners in 1820, and at the expiration of his term of office (1823) was appointed treasurer of the county, which office he filled continuously till 1835, when he was succeeded by Peter Nagle. Under the will of his father he had accepted the old homestead at the corner of Fifth and Washington, built in 1760. In 1817 it was converted into a public house and called the Farmers' Hotel. Jacob Kline was the first landlord. He was suc-

ceeded two years later by Jacob Boyer, who was followed in 1821 by Daniel Kerper, formerly sheriff of the county, and re-elected in 1824. Upon his reelection, Abraham Levan and his son-in-law, John Smull, succeeded. They were followed by Samuel Beard, who kept it for many years. It became a popular place of entertainment and was familiarly known as "Beard's Hotel." His son Herman Beard succeeded and for a long time continued as its landlord.

* * *

In addition to farming the several tracts of land which he owned in and near the town, he successfully conducted a general store next to the hotel, and when his son Aaron came of age in 1829 he associated him as a partner in the business. In 1833 he gave up his interest in the store, which was then conducted by his son Aaron, and his son-in-law John Green, as partners. After Mr. Green's retirement in 1837, Francis Bright, the youngest son of David, took his place as a partner, and under the new firm the business was carried on for a number of years.

By his wife Catharine, David Bright had ten children, viz:

Sarah H., 1793-1882, m. William Yerger.

Michael, 1795; left home in 1821.

Abigail, 1797-1875, m. George Fisler.

William, 1798-1895, m. Sarah Lorah.

Catharine H., 1800-1880, m. John Green.

Peter, 1801-1882, m. Mary Evans.

John, 1804-1884, m. Catharine Naher.

David, 1805-1836, d. at Zanesville, O.

Aaron 1809-1837, m. Maria S. Miller; m. second, Rosanna Swoyer.

Francis, 1812-1894, unmarried.

After the marriage of his youngest daughter Catharine, in March, 1828, he required family help. He accordingly offered his oldest daughter, Catharine H. Yerger, then a widow, a home for herself and family, which she willingly accepted. The work was considerable as he was still engaged in farming and kept a number of cows besides his farming stock. His table, though frugal, was always generously supplied, and family visitors and friends were always welcome. Though brought up in the Reformed faith he did not believe in the received dogmas of the orthodox churches, but decidedly inclined to the more liberal doctrines which recognized the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of the race. As one of his daughters long ago remarked: If a Universalist church had existed during the period of his active life he would have given it his willing support.

By his will on file in the Register's office, and which was modeled largely after that of his father (4) Michael Bright, Sr., he directs that

each of his children shall appoint two appraisers to value his large landed estate and then gives the choice of electing to his several children to take at the valuation, but not in the order of age. His daughters are postponed to the sons, and fare very unequally in the division. The share of his son Michael, who went from home in 1821 and was not thereafter heard from, he directs to be held in trust for ten years after his death. In the event of not returning, it was to be equally divided among his remaining children.

(23) Peter, 1774-1797. Died of fever at Port Au Prince in the West Indies.

(24) John, 1776-1793. He died early in life. His tombstone is to be found on the Geo. Smith lot in the Charles Evans Cemetery.

Of (6) JOHN BRIGHT.

(25) Henry, 1760.

(26) Michael, 1762, m. Barbara Waters 1781-1833, by whom he had fifteen children, viz: John, Jacob, Catharine, Margaret, Henry, Sarah, Elizabeth, Barbara, George, David, Samuel, William, Ann Mary, Peter and Adam. He was married a second time, to Margaret Glass, who died in 1850, but left no issue.

(27) John, 1764.

(28) Catharine, 1767.

(29) Sarah, 1770; m. in 1792, John Herman.

(30) Susan, 1772.

(31) Jacob, 1774.

(32) George, 1776-1823, m. Elizabeth Stover, 1789-1868. They had eight children, viz: David, Margaret, Catharine, John, George, Michael, Sophia and Samuel.

(33) William, 1779; (34) David, 1782;

(35) Margaret, 1786.

Of (7) PETER BRIGHT.

(36) Jacob, 1762.

(37) George, 1765, m. moved to Sunbury, Pa. He had five children, viz: Jacob, Peter, John, George and Catharine.

(38) Catharine, 1768-1821, m. Frederick Heller, Esq., 1763-1837. They had eleven children, as follows: William Peter, John 1st, Catharine, Capt. John 2d, Jacob, George, Maria, Ludwig 1st, Ludwig 2d and Frederick A.

(39) John 17, m. moved to Union Co., Pa. Had two children, viz: Catharine and Maria.

(40) Maria 17, m. Daniel Lebo, and had eleven children, as follows: Margaret, Elizabeth, Catharine, Jacob, Sarah, Daniel, Maria, Tabitha, Amelia, William and Julia A.

(41) Sarah, 1781-1851, m. William Stahle, 1779-1849. Had three children, viz: Sarah, Margaret and Sophia.

(42) Peter, 1780, m. Had one child, Jacob.

(43) Michael, 1788-1861, m. Barbara Miller, 1783-1870. They had ten children, as follows: George, Reuben, Sarah,

Levi, Peter, Eliza, Francis, William, Maria and Miller. Michael Bright was unfortunate in business and made an assignment for the benefit of creditors. During the latter portion of his life he and his wife kept a noted resort on the south side of Penn street, below Third, where meat and cakes were dispensed to the public. Many of the elderly residents of Reading will recall with pleasure their visit to the little white cabin which required an ascent of eight or ten steps to reach from Penn street.

(44) David, 1791-1842.

Of (8) DAVID BRIGHT.

(45) Michael, 1771, m. Had two sons, viz: James and Abraham. Removed to Botetourt county, Va., and from thence in 1812 to Kentucky.

(46) Jesse, 1763-1806, m. Had a son Jesse, who is still living in Lewisburg, Greenbrier county, W. Va.

(47) David G., 1773-1831, m. Rachael Graham, 1780-1835. They had nine children, viz: Michael G., Rachael Antoinette Jesse, James B., George M., Mary Ann, Sarah, David G. Jr., and Margaret. David G. Bright moved to Botetourt county, Va. He was married to Miss Graham, of Fincastle, Va., in 1800. The same year he removed to Plattsburg, N. Y., by the advice of De Witt Clinton. In 1812 he changed his residence to Norwich, Chenango Co., N. Y. In 1820 he left Norwich and moved to Madison, Ind., below Cincinnati, where he died in 1831.

(48) George, 1782-1873, m. 1st Mary M. Neal, 1787-1827. George Bright was born in Pinegrove township, then Berks county, since embraced in Schuylkill Co. He removed with his father to Greenbrier, Va., in 1785. He had by his first wife eleven children, as follows: Thomas Jefferson, Sarah, David, George Mary D., Mary A., John M., Margaret, Michael R., Abraham R., and Samuel G. He married second Ann Conell, by whom he had three children, viz: Frances, Ann, Mary J., and Elizabeth.

(49) Elizabeth, 178—, m. Moore, of Fincastle, Va., moved to Colorado Springs, Col. Had one child Anna.

(50) Margaret, 1780, m. Mr. Graham.

Of (11) CHRISTINA PECHIN.

(51) Mary, 1766-1844, m. Henry Ingie, 1764-1822, of Phila. They had seven children, as follows: John, William, Joseph, Ann, Edward, Mary and Christina.

(52) Christopher, 1763 d. Young; (53) John, 1768; (54) Peter, 1771-1784.

(55) William, 1774, and (56) George, 1778. The children of the above 45 grand-children of (1) Michael Brecht, the elder, constitute the

FOURTH GENERATION

and are as follows:

Of (15) MARY BUNOWS.

(57) Jacob, m. Elizabeth Ross. Had 2

children, Edward and Emma.

(58) Mary.

(59) Margaret.

Of (16) MICHAEL BRIGHT.

(60) Susan, 1790-1846, m. John Angue, 1792, of France. Had six children, viz: Magdalena, Irwin, Albert D., Michael, James P., and Charlotte.

(61) Elizabeth, 17, m. Richard Vermillion, of Va. Had six children, viz: Henrietta, Irwin, Matilda, Elizabeth, Annsilla and Charlotte.

(62) Michael, 1792-1871, m. 1st Annie Stewart, 1797-1837, of Germantown, by whom he had two children, Elizabeth and Michael, m. 2d Elizabeth Stewart, of Philadelphia, by whom he had six children, viz: John, Mary, Lewis G., Emma, George W., and John H.

(63) Jacob, m. Rebecca, of Washington, D. C. Had four children, viz: Edward, George, Jacob and Thomas.

(64) George, 1796-1824, m. Harriet Fanks, of Reading, Pa. He had removed to that place from Phila. Had a son, Lafayette.

Of (19) JACOB BRIGHT.

(65) Daniel R., 1780-1823, m. (1804), Hannah Yeager, 1787-1880. Daniel R. Bright kept the hotel at the foot of Penn street in Reading up to 1815, when he sold it to Boyer and Green, and moved to Milton, Pa., where he died. He left nine children, viz: Edward Y., Henry, Yeager F., William, Angeline, Daniel R., Amanda and Hiram. His widow married Samuel Nicely, of Carlisle in 1827, and by him had a daughter, Catharine, m. to Joseph P. Tustin, of Bloomsburg, who died in 1892.

(66) Catharine, 1781-18, m. 1796, John Hoff, 17-1818. They had six children, as follows: Jacob B., John, William, Margaret, Eva and Catharine.

(67) Jos. 1783-18, m. Mary Weil, 178—. Joseph Bright was by trade a cooper, and by his wife had ten children, viz: Anna M., Frances, Weil, Augustus, Joel, Catharine, Mary, George and Susan.

(68) Susanna, 1785-1810, m. Daniel Yeager, (of Frederick), 1782-1821. They had two children, viz: Amos B., and Catharine.

(69) Jacob, 1790-1863, m. Sarah A., 1794-1867. Jacob Bright was a tailor by trade and after his marriage removed to Pottsville. He had seven children, as follows: Harriet, Margaret, Michael, William W., David, Mary Ann, and Lewis A. He was familiarly known as "Naase Brecht."

(70) Mary, 1791-1807, m. Dr. Jacob Marshall, 1788-1871. Mr. Marshall was a leading physician in Reading and held the important office of clerk of the Orphans' Court of Berks county from 1832 to 1835 by appointment of Governor Wolf. They had ten children, as follows: David, Dr. Jacob G., Elizabeth, Mary 1st, Sarah, Dr. Philip, Mary 2d, Isabella, Louisa and Amanda.

(71) Sarah, 1749, m. George Bechtel, 1793-1867. Mr. Bechtel was by trade a tanner and for some years carried on the tannery at Friedensburg. He afterwards worked at the Spring Garden tannery of William Yerger. After Yerger was sold out by the sheriff he worked for Henry Connard, who conducted the tannery at the corner of Bingham street and Perkiomen avenue. They had eight children, viz.: Katharine, Christian, Eve, Angeline, George, Sarah, Jacob and Henry B. Bechtel.

(72) Margaret, 1800-1885, m. George Smith, 1802-1878. Mr. Smith was a miller by trade and for many years conducted what was long known as Reese's Mill at the first locks of the canal above Penn street in the city of Reading. He was appointed Register of Wills by Governor Wolf, and held the office from 1830 to 1835. They had seven children, as follows: Angeline, Mary, Jacob B., Edmond L., George, Jr., Charles and Katharine.

(73) Elizabeth, 18—18—, m. 1st James Penny, of Milton, by whom she had a daughter, Clarina, m. 2d John Markle of (Christian). They had three children, viz: Mary M., Emma J. and George B. Markle.

Of (20) MICHAEL BRIGHT, JR.

(74) Michael (74½) Charles (75) David.

(76) Catharine, 1783-1855, m. Jacob Steigel, 1785-1869. They had eleven children, as follows: Phoebe, Rachael, Louisa, Elizabeth, William, John, Jacob Michael, David, Charles and Sarah Steigel.

(77) Rachael, (78) Elizabeth, (79) Mary.

Of (21) SARAH RUPERT.

(80) Catharine, 1786-1887, m. Joseph Paxton, of Catawissa. They had eight children, viz: Bright, Charles, Mary, Joseph, Harriet, Sarah, Frank and Lloyd.

(81) Peter, 1788-1848, m. Catharine Diehl. He was a cabinet-maker at Rupert.

(82) Rebecca, 1790, m. James Shearer. Had three children.

(83) Bright, 1793-1815, (84) Mary R., (85) Sarah R.

(86) Elizabeth R., 1799-1881, m. Thos. Lloyd. Had two children, viz: Catharine and Mary.

(87) Rhoda R., 1801, d. unmd; (88) Lavina R., 1803, d. unmd.

(89) Harriet R., d. unmd; (90) Charles.

(91) Leonard B., 1810-1889, m. Elvina Barton, Bloomsburg. They had eight children, viz: Clara R., Sarah, Mary E., Mary B., Charles B. Jacqueline, Ata and Leonard B. Rupert.

Of (22) DAVID BRIGHT.

(92) Sarah H., 1793-1882, m. William Yerger, 1795-1826. Mr. Yerger was a tanner by trade and bought the Spring Garden tannery property from David

Bright, his father-in-law. The venture was not successful and he was eventually sold out by the Sheriff. After his death his widow and family went to live with her father, David Bright, on North 5th street, for whom they kept house until his death in 1846. Mr. Yerger had six children, viz: Henry D. Bright, Annetta, William B., Evaline and Catharine.

(93) Michael, 1795. He left home in 1821 and was never after heard from. His father by his will, provided that Michael's share of his estate should be retained ten years after testators. In the event of his not returning the share was to be divided among his brothers and sisters.

(94) Abigail, 1797-1875, m. George Fislser, 1785-1831. Mr. Fislser kept store in Reading for a number of years. He then removed to Coatesville, Chester Co., where he died. They had six children, viz: Catharine Jane, George B., Hester, Jacob G. and Louisa.

(95) William, 1795-1895. m. Susan Lorah, 1809-1882. Mr. Bright was engaged in the lumber business, but failed in 1835, and went to Ohio with his family, where he rented a farm. In his will his father, David Bright, directed his executors to purchase a farm for William in Ohio, the price not to exceed the amount coming to him out of testator's estate, and to have the deed made to themselves in trust for William for life and after his death to his children. A farm was purchased accordingly at Westerville, ten miles northwest of Columbus, Ohio, which William occupied during his life, and where some of his children still reside. He had seven children by his wife Susan, viz: Louisa, George L., Susan, Lydia C., William J., Rufus and Francis. He lived to the extreme age of 97 years.

(96) Catharine Huber, 1800-1880, m. John Green, 1800-1875. Mr. Green was born in Orwigsburg then in Berks county, moved to Reading with his father's family in 1816. Later he entered a wholesale house in Philadelphia, but returned to Reading in 1826, where he opened a grocery store with Daniel Hain as a partner, on the south side of Penn street just below Fourth. In 1833 the partnership with Hain was dissolved and he became a partner with his brother-in-law, Aaron Bright, on North 5th street. In 1837 he opened a new grocery and provision store on Penn square just above the place now occupied by the Second National bank. In 1839 he bought the Fricker property at the southwest corner of Sixth and Penn streets, now owned by Jesse G. Hawley, where he erected, west of the hotel, a three-story building, to which he removed his store, which he conducted until about 1870, when he retired from business. He held the office of Recorder

of Deeds of Berks county by the appointment of Gov. Ritner in 1839, and was afterwards elected Register of Wills, which he held from 1842 to 1845.

They had eight children, viz: Albert G., Erastus R., David B., Emily E., Nathaniel, George W., Francis M. and Annie B. Green.

(97) Peter, 1801-1882, m. Mary Evans, 1807-1894. Peter was engaged in teaming in early life. He afterwards removed to Columbia county on his father's farm near Danville. This farm was afterwards devised to him by his father's will. He subsequently removed to Danville, where some of his children still reside. He had seven children, viz: Rebecca, Hiram, Dennis, Abigail, Pamina, Mary and Philip.

(98) John, 1804-1884, m. Catharine Naher. In 1860 he was divorced from his wife and thereafter remained unmarried. They had no issue. John Bright was for many years a teamster to Pittsburg. He was very familiar with the stopping points along the route, and often entertained his friends with incidents of his trips. He was a quiet, inoffensive citizen, and was well thought of by his neighbors and acquaintances. In politics the Brights were staunch Whigs to a man, and afterwards Republicans often to a bigoted degree. John Bright was the only exception. He was an intense Democrat and always out-spoken for his party.

(99) David, 1805-1836. He moved to Zanesville, Ohio, where he died of fever.

(100) Aaron, 1808-1897, m. 1st Maria S. Miller (of Frederick), 1810-1860. By her he had thirteen children, viz: Frederick, Benjamin F., David, Aaron, Jr., Mary Jane, Winfield, Harrison, William P., Ella B., Michael, Francis and John. He m. 2d Roxanna Swoyer, 18-1897. By his second wife he had two children, viz: Sarah E. and Edwin E. Bright. Mr. Bright in early life kept store in partnership with his father, David, on Callowhill street. He formed a partnership in 1833 with his brother-in-law, John Green. They continued to keep store at the same place until 1837, when Mr. Green was succeeded by Francis Bright. The two brothers continued the business up to the death of their father, David Bright, when it was dissolved. Having, through the will of his father acquired several tracts of land on the east side of the turnpike to Pottsville and within the city limits, he was engaged in farming on a small scale, but after the war of the Rebellion he made very advantageous sales of the land and was persuaded to buy a large tract of farm land in the Shenandoah valley, Va., to which he removed with his family. The purchase subjected him to continuous farm work, and he always regretted its acquisition. Many of his

children live in Reading and vicinity, while a number reside in Virginia, where he died a few years ago, followed soon after by his wife Roxanna.

(101) Francis, 1812-1894. Was never married and always lived at home until the death of his mother in 1852. He was the favorite of his family, and was made one of the executors of his father's will and was given the first choice of taking real estate, which by the will was directed to be appraised. He elected to take the Farmer's hotel property at the valuation. Mr. Bright was of very saving habits, and as his personal needs were small and his inheritance very considerable, he managed to accumulate a large estate. Ignoring the reasonable claims of his relatives, he conceived the delusive idea of giving all his property to two "adopted children," and made his will accordingly. His remains rest in the Charles Evans cemetery.

Of (26) MICHAEL BRIGHT.

(102) John, 1782-1789; (103) Jacob, 1782; (104) Catharine, 1784; (105) Margaret, 1787; (106) Henry, 1789; (107) Sarah, 1791.

(108) Elizabeth, 1793; (109) Barbara, 1793; (110) George, 1795.

(111) David, 1797.

(112) Samuel, 1799, m. Samuel had five children, viz: Michael, Lavina, Amanda, William and Sarah.

(113) William, 1801; (114) Ann Mary 1803.

(115) Peter, 1805, m. Peter had four children, viz: Rachael, Elizabeth, Mary and a son, who was Captain in Union Army.

(116) Adam, 1806-1876.

Of (32) GEORGE BRIGHT.

(117) David, 1801-1827, unmarried; (118) Margaret, 1804-1877.

(119) Catharine, 1806-1889, m. Samuel Shaeffer; (120) John, 1809-1888.

(121) George, 1811-1898, m. Had children, viz: Rev. John A., who lives at Topeka, Kan.

(122) Michael; (123) Sophia.

(124) Samuel, 1819-1858, m. Eve Margaret Weaver, 1822. They had six children, viz: Mary E., Sarah A., Barbara J., Prof. James W., Dr. John W. and Margaret. The widow of Samuel afterwards married Levi Conser.

Of (37) GEORGE BRIGHT.

(125) Jacob; (126) Peter; (127) John; (128) George; (129) Catharine.

Of (38) CATHARINE HELLER.

(130) William, 1787; (131) Peter, 1788; (132) John 1st, 1790-1791; (133) Catharine, 1793-1814.

(134) John, 2d, 1795-1868, m. Mary J. James, 1792-1876. He was commissioned as Captain of militia and commanded a company in the War of 1812; (135) Jacob, 1797-1849.

(136) George, 1800-1886, m. 1st Catharine Smith (of Peter). Mr. Heller kept

a jewelry store for many years latterly on the west side of North Fifth, between Penn and Court streets in the city of Reading. He was an expert watchmaker and was somewhat boastful of the excellence of his fishing rods. By his first wife he had three children, viz.: Frederick P., Joseph F. and James Augustus. He m. second Caroline Kern, 1818-1872, by whom he had six children, viz.: Mary C., Francis K., Charles H., Philip K., Emily C. and Rose C.

(137) Maria, 1802-1875, m. George Philippi.

(138) Ludwig 1st, 1805-1805; (139) Ludwig 2d, 1806-1892, moved to Easton, Pa.

(140) Frederick A., 1812-1870.

Of (39) JOHN BRIGHT.

(141) Catharine; (142) Maria.

Of (40) MARIA LEBOW.

(143) Margaret, 18, m. Peter Kerns;

(144) Elizabeth; (145) Catharine.

(146) Jacob; (147) Sarah.

(148) Daniel, 18, m. Miss Reese, of Philadelphia.

(149) Maria, m. Otto Witman; (149½) Tabitha.

(150) Amelia, 18, m. Anthony Fricker. By her he had four children, viz.: William, Sarah, Ellen and Clara.

(151) William, 18, m. Moser of Tamaqua.

(152) Julia A., 18—-1897.

Of (41) SARAH STAHL.

(153) Sarah; (154) Margaret; (155) Sophia.

Of (42) PETER BRIGHT.

(156) Jacob.

Of (43) MICHAEL BRIGHT.

(157) George, 1810, m. Rosina Lerch moved to Pottsville. For many years he conducted an extensive hardware store at Pottsville. He had five children, viz.: Joseph C., Emily E., Anna M., George L. and William H. Bright.

(158) Reuben, 1812-1846. Drowned from a vessel.

(159) Sarah A., 1814, m. James Allgaier.

(160) Levi, 1816-1846. Captured in Mexico; (161) Peter, 1818.

(162) Ann Eliza, 1819, m. Reuben Goodhart, 18. They had four children, viz.: Frederick, Reuben B., Alice and Charlotte.

(163) Francis, 1821-1865. Died at Hazleton.

(164) William, 1824-1859, m. Moved to Tamaqua.

(165) Maria, 1826, m. Joseph McDonnell, 18. They had three children, viz.: Ellen, Katharine and Daniel.

(166) Miller, 1829-1857. Moved to Tamaqua.

Of (45) MICHAEL BRIGHT.

(167) James.

Of (46) JESSE BRIGHT.

(168) Jesse, 1818.

Of (47) DAVID GRAHAM BRIGHT.

(169) Michael G., 1803-1875, m. Elizabeth B. Steele, 1809-1895. They had

eight children, viz.: Michael, Richard J., Rachael Martha, Hannah, Mary, Geo. and William.

(170) Rachael Antoinette, 1801-1881, m. Edward A. McIntire.

(171) Jesse D., 1812-1875, m. Mary E. Turpin, 18—-1877. Mr. Bright was born in Norwich, Chenango county, N. Y., whither his father had removed from Botetourt county, Va., in 1800. In 1820 the family moved west to Madison, Ind., about 100 miles below Cincinnati. After attending the schools of the town Mr. Bright studied law and in 1833 was admitted to the bar of Jefferson county. In the following year he was elected judge of the Probate Court. In 1836 he was a member of the legislature and in 1841 was elected Lieutenant Governor of the state. In 1845 he was first elected to the United States Senate by the legislature of Indiana and twice successively re-elected. His third term would have expired in 1863. In April, 1862, there was a charge of disloyalty preferred against him in the Senate. The evidence was that he had written a letter to Jefferson Davis, President of the Southern Confederacy, recommending to his notice a person, who claimed to have invented an improvement in firearms. In his defence Mr. Bright frankly admitted the charge of having written such letter; that it was done to get rid of the importunity of the claimant, who had annoyed him for some time, and that the occurrence took place before Mr. Lincoln's inauguration and that at the time he had no idea there would be war with the seceding states. The charge was referred by the Senate to a committee to investigate and report. The committee by a vote of five to two reported that the facts did not warrant the charge made against the Senator from Indiana, and recommended that the matter be dropped. But under the intense partisan feeling then existing, the majority of the Senate under the lead of Charles Sumner, voted his expulsion from that body. Mr. Bright afterwards removed to Kentucky, where he was elected to the Legislature. He afterwards went to Baltimore, where he died of heart disease. He left three children, as follows: Jesse J., Frances B. and Georgiana.

(172) Dr. James Bright, 18—. He was a noted physician and author. He lived at Lexington, Ky.

(173) George M. 1814-188 m. Minerva Steele, of Shelbyville, Ky., and had eleven children, viz.: Ferguson G., Jesse D. George A., Adam S., Hannah S., David, George A., Adam S., Hannah S., David G., Rachael A., Minerva S., Mary J., Horatio S., and Martha B.

(174) Mary Ann, 18-1840, m. Adam, of Hawksville, Ky.

(175) Sarah V., 18-1890, m. Maj. William Jarvis. She died at Louisville, Ky., without issue.

(176) David G., Jr., died in youth.

(177) Margaret.

Of (48) GEORGE BRIGHT.

(178) Thomas Jefferson, 1806-1863, m. Phoebe Hearn, settled in North Carolina. They had five children, viz., George Bright, Jefferson, killed at battle of Seven Pines in the Confederate ranks, 1862; Corinne, James and David.

(179) Sarah B., 1807-1889, m. 1st Solomon Wright; m. 2d Dr. Dottled, of Troy, Tenn.

(180) Dr. David B., 1810-1890, m. 1st Ellen Motherwell, 18—1862, of Obion county, Tenn. By her he had four children, viz., Dr. William M., Mary B., John B. and Ellen B.; m. 2d Mrs Margaret Scruggs (nee Edminster).

(181) Rev. George B., 1813-1874, m. Damaris Semple McCombs, 1820-1864, and died at Key West, Fla. They had five children, viz., Samuel G., Mary, Sarah F. and Margaret.

(182) Mary D., 1814, d. young; (183) Mary A., 1815, d. young.

(184) Rev. John M., 1816-1899, m. Mary Fitzgerald, of Houston, Ga., and had seven children, viz., George, Clara, James T., Mary E., John, Charles and Styles.

(185) Margaret, 1818-1890, m. John Board, 18—1892, and had two children, Sarah and George E.

(186) Michael R., 1820-1899, m. Jemima Board; moved to Texas; had three children, Dr. David, Samuel G. and Joseph.

(187) Abraham R., 1824, d. young.

(188) Samuel Graham, 1825, m. Mary —, and had four children, viz., George M., Zelekiah, Maud and Margaret.

Of (51) MARY INGLE.

(189) John P., 1791-1863, m. 1st Susan Baker by whom he had several children, m. 2d Mildred Baker and m. 3d Eliza Baker.

(190) William P., 1793-1849. Supposed to have been killed.

(191) Joseph P., 1796-1863, m. Susan Childs.

(192) Ann P., 1798-1882, m. Eliza Lind-sley.

(193) Edward P., 1799-1839, m. Julia Pechin (cousin).

(194) Mary P., 1801-1893, m. William H. Campbell, 1800-1851. They had three children, viz: Julia A., Leonard C. and Christiana V. Campbell.

(195) Christina P., 1804-1878.

The above list includes the names of the fourth generation so far as I have ascertained them. Many more names will doubtless be added by some future family historian. The occurrence of two instances of remarkable longevity belong to this generation. They are the grand-children of (4) Michael Bright, Sen., viz: Catharine Paxton, wife of Joseph Paxton, of Catawissa, who was the oldest daughter of (21) Sarah Rupert, and attained the age of 101 years. The other was William

Bright, of Westerville, Ohio, who was a son of (22) David Bright, of Reading, who reached the ripe old age of 97 years.

The children and grandchildren of the persons belonging to the fourth generation will constitute respectively the

FIFTH AND SIXTH GENERATIONS.

They are given together in the following table of pedigree, though kept distinct while the parenthetical numbers belonging to each generation are preserved. By the plan adopted the names credited to each generation can readily be found. First in order come the great-grandchildren of (2) Jacob Bright, viz., the children

Of (62) MICHAEL BRIGHT.

(196) Elizabeth, 1819.

(197) Michael, 1821-1851, m. Adele George, of Mobile. They had six children, as follows:

(448) George D. of Philadelphia, (449) William M., of Philadelphia, (450) Edgar H., of New Orleans, (451) Adele R., 1853-1863, (452) Stewart, 1860-1861, and (453) Lewis V., of New York.

(198) William, d. 1864, (199) Annie, 1827-1859, (200) John, died in infancy, (201) Mary d. unm'd., (202) Lewis G., (203) Emma d. unm'd., (204) George W., m. Mary Cone, of Decatur, Ill.

(205) John H., m. Ellen George, of Mobile, who had five children, viz., (454) Michael, d. in infancy, (455) Caroline, m. and had three children, Charles, Belle E., and Annie, (456) Henry, (457) Jesse D., (458) Albert A.

Of (60) SUSAN ANGUE, 1790.

(206) Margaret, m. William H. Wilson, of Philadelphia.

(207) Susan, m. C. G. Poulson; they had five children.

(208) Albert D., m. Sophia Swain; had one child, d.

(209) Michael, d. unm'd.

(209½) James P., d. unm'd.

(210) Charlotte, m. J. W. Powell.

Of (61) ELIZABETH VERMILLION.

(211) Henrietta, m. Mr. Barry, of Washington, D. C.

(212) Susan, (213) Matilda d., (214) Elizabeth, (215) Avarilla, d., and (216) Charlotte, d.

Of (63) JACOB BRIGHT.

(217) Edward, (218) George, (219) Jacob, and (220) Thomas.

Of (64) GEORGE BRIGHT, 1796.

(221) Lafayette, 1824-1895, of Reading, m. Margaret. Had a son (459) George W., 1849-1870.

Of (59) JACOB BRIGHT.

(222) Edward, (223) Emma, m. Joseph Leeds; 2d L. C. Trautman, of Philadelphia.

Of (65) DANIEL R. BRIGHT.

(224) Edward Y., 1805, m. and had three children, viz., (460) Edward, (461) Daniel and (462) Sarah.

(225) Henry, 1806-1806.

(226) Yeager Fred, 1807., m Catharine Yeager, 1814-1888. Lives at Ashland, Pa., and has five children, viz., (463) Wm. H., 1832-189., m.; kept a lumber yard at Ashland and had 7 children, Catharine, Leonora A., Hunter, Martin, Eloma, m. to H. A. Acker; John M. and David, (464) Daniel R., 1833-1880, m., one child; (465) Calvin, 1836, d. in California, (466) Caroline, 1845, m. Joseph Lawrence, and (467) Harrison, 1848, m.; has two children.

(227) William J., 1809-1865, m. Mary Yeager, a cousin. He died at Reading. Left no issue.

(228) Angeline, 1812, m. Mr. Bowen, of Philadelphia. Had three children, one (468) A. H. Bowen, of Philadelphia.

(229) Daniel R., 1815, m. 1st Mary, by whom he had one child, (469) Hannah Elizabeth, m. to T. R. Jones; moved to California; had one child by 2d wife.

(230) Amanda, 1819-1889, m. George F. Miller, 1809-1885. They had two children, (470) D. Bright, 1840, and (471) George Barron, 1844. They are both members of the bar of Union county. Live at Lewisburg, Pa.

(231) Hannah, 1820, m. Samuel Barton, 18—1864. Had three children, viz., (471½) Bright H., 1847; lives at Lewisburg, Pa., (472) Charles, 1853-1854, and (473) Ann, 1856, m. Mr. Bubb.

(232) Hiram, 1823-1883, m. 1st Caroline Atkins, 1829-1855. Lives at Freeport, Ill.; had two children, (474) Austria, 1851-1853, and (475) Caroline, 1855, m. Albert F. Hale; m. 2d Hulda A. Tisdell, d. 1888. By her he had six children, viz., (476) Thomas C., 1857-1862, (477) Olive, 1860-1882, m. H.K. Bromlee; (478) Franklin, 1862, m. Elvira H. Pond; lives in Colorado; (479) Hiram T., 1864-1867, (480) Leonora, 1866, m. Henry M. Chrisler, and (481) Lucie A., 1868; lives at Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Of (66) CATHARINE HOFF of Reading.

(233) Jacob B., 1756-1884, m. Rosanna Strohecker, 1818-1880. They had one child, viz., (482) Amos B., 1833-1871.

(234) John, 1806-1875, m. Susan Kautner, 1809-1890. He was a brickmaker by trade; had six children, viz., (483) Henry A., 1829, m. Mary Pearson, 1835. He was a successful merchant, and afterwards a banker. They had five children, viz., John, 1862-1864, Henry K., 1864, Davis P., 1866, Charles J., 1869, and Mary P., 1872; (484) Mary A., 1832-1899, m. James Milholland, 1813-1875, and had two children, viz., John H., 1867-1897, and Robt. A. Milholland, Esq., 1869; (485) John, 1834-1834, (486) Emaline, 1836, m. Henry Johnston, 18—. They had five children, viz., Henry, John, George, William, and Olive, m. John K., 1839-1842, (487) Susan C., 1841, m. 1st F. Leaf Smith, Esq., by whom she had a son Carroll; m. 2d Wm. H. Johnson, of New York; (488) Minerva, 1843, m. Louis

Richards, Esq., 1842. He was admitted to the Berks County Bar in 1865, and is the author of several valuable law books, including a form book of Pennsylvania Procedure. His Digest of Municipal Law, containing references to all the decisions of the county relating to the government of cities of the third class, is a standard work and enjoys a deservedly high reputation. They had four children, viz., Lewis, John, William and Susan, Katharine, 1846-1865, (489) Clara L., 1849, m. George Kreisher, of New York. Has two children, John and Leslie, (490) George B., 1852.

(235) William B., 1810-1888, m. Esther Kimmel, 1819-1895. He had six children, viz., (491) Catharine B., 1837, m. Conrad Beecher, (492) Sarah P., 1844-1877, m. Hiram W. Pinkerton, and had two children, viz., Cleaver and George, (493) Eliza G., m. Sigmond Gaertner, (494) Richard, 1849, (495) Amanda, 1854, m. Charles H. Graves, and (496) William, 1858.

(236) Margaret, m. Samuel Hain.

(237) Eva, 1816, m. Paul Barr, 1805-1872. They had seven children, (497) Henry, 1838, (498) Rebecca, 1834, m. Rev. Smith, (498½) Richard, 1836, (499) John, 1832 (499a) Norton, 1842, (499b) Francis, 1844, and (499c) Theo. A., 1852.

(238) Catharine, m. George Well.

Of (67) JOSEPH BRIGHT.

(239) Well, latter, 1809-1889, m. Mary Goodhart (of Geo.) 1812. They had thirteen children, viz., (500) Joseph, d. in infancy; George m., moved to Paducah, Ky., (501) Joseph 2d, d. in infancy, (502) John, d. in infancy, (503) Mary, m. Berj. Sweiniler, (504) Sarah, m. Zach. H. Maurer, (505) Charles, m. Delilah Hall, (506) Emma, m. Anthony Wagner, (507) Hartman, d. young, (508) Amanda, m. Frank Maurer, (509) Anna, 1857-1858, and (510) Martha, m. Robert Smith.

(240) Augustus, 1812-1882, m. Maria Well.

(241) Jacob, 1816, m. Sarah Levan.

(242) Joel, 1818-1848, (243) Catharine, 1822, m. Thomas Purchase, of Newark, N. J.

(244) Mary W., 1826, (245) George W., 1827, and (246) Susan B., 1831, m. Levi Knabb, of Ashland.

Of (68) SUSANNA YEAGER.

(247) Amos B., 1808-1889, m. Sarah Musser. Had two children, viz., (511) Frederick M., 1840, a member of the Ringgold Artillery, one of the first companies that marched to the defense of Washington in April, 1861, m. Hannah M. Orner. Had one child, Susan J., 1873, m. Henry S. High 2d., (512) Susan E., 1843, m. Evan Mishler, late Sheriff of Berks county.

(248) Catharine, 1810, m. Daniel Hemmig. They had two children, viz., (513) Susan and (514) Amos.

Of (69) JACOB R. BRIGHT.

(249) Harriet, 1814-1898, m. David Dun-

can, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Had six children, viz., (515) Margaret, (516) Sallie, (517) David, (518) Harriet, (519) Mary, and (520) Clara.

(250) Margaret, 1818-1885, m. Jas. Lani-gan. Had 6 children, viz., (521) Sallie, m. m. Adam H. Schmehl, Esq., (524) Lau-ra, m. G. W. Williams, (525) Mary, d. and (526) James, d.

(251) Michael, 1820-189-, m. Margaret K. Davis, of Pottsville. Had 6 children, viz., (527) Sarah C., (528) Edward D., (529) Ellen D., (530) Francis B., (531) John W., and (532) Henry.

(252) William, 1823.

(252½) David, 1825-1830.

(253) Mary Ann, 1831-1899, m. Mahlon R. Nicholls. Had two children, viz., (533) Sallie, m. Henry Mortimer, and (534) Mary, m. Thomas Strauch.

(254) Lewis C., d. 1834 at Erie.

Of (70) MARY MARSHALL.

(257) David, 1816-1819.

(258) Dr. John G., 1818-1861, m. Aman-da A. Kline, 18—; had two sons, viz., (535) Daniel W., Los Angeles, Cal., and (536) Dr. John, dean of the University of Pennsylvania, m. and has one child.

(259) Elizabeth, 18—0 1894, m. John Miller, 18—. They had seven children, viz., (537) Harriet, (538) Marshall, (539) Scott, (540) Jacob, (541) Mary, (542) Belle, and (543) Rose.

(260) Sarah, 1826-1862, m. Isaac Bar-rett, 18—. They had four children, viz., (544) Mary, (545) Marshall, (546) Bright, and (547) Estella.

(261) Dr. Philip, 1828-1889, m.; one child, (548) Cora.

(262) Mary, 1830-1835.

(263) Isabella, 1832, m. Josiah Funck, 1827-1896. He was a distinguished law-yer of Lebanon, Pa., and had six chil-dren, viz., (549) Mary, 1833-1863, (550) Marshall, 1835, a member of the Leb-anon county bar; (551) Edwin, 1858-1862, (552) Helen, 1861, (553) Sara, 1863, (554) Alfred, 1871.

(264) Louisa, 1836-1852.

(265) Amanda, 1842, m. William En-gle; had son (555) Walter, 1867.

Of (71) SARAH BECHTEL.

(266) Katharine, 1817-1890, m. Daniel Levan, 1817-1873. They had five chil-dren, viz., (556) Edward, 1830, m. La-vina Harner, 1854, (557) Sallie, 1852, d., (558) George, 1853, (559) Samuel, 1854, and (560) James, 1857, m. Emma Griffith.

(267) Christian, 1820-1857, m. Abigail Ehrgood, 1816-1859. They had five chil-dren, viz., (561) Katharine, 1839-1842, (562) Sarah, 1841-1845, (563) John, 1843-1875, m. Agnes Goodman, (564) Anna Elizabeth, 1845, d., and (565) George, 1847, m. Sallie Frankenfield.

(268) Eve, 1823-1858, m. Peter Rapp and had six children, viz., (566) Mary E., d., (567) Ann Elizabeth, d., (568) John, (569) Clara, (570) Josephine, and (571) Antoinette.

(269) Angeline, 1825.

(270) George, 1826, m. Anna O'Dear; had six children, viz., (572) William L., 1847, m. Annetta Rapp, and had one child, (573) Sarah L., 1849, m. Jacob Stimmel, and by him had seven chil-dren.

(271) Sarah A., 1829-1891, (272) Jacob, 1832, m. Eliza Kehl, 1829, one child, (574) Sallie K., 1868, m. John Rothermel, 1866.

(273) Henry B., 1836, m. Amanda Ken-del, d.; one child, (575) Clara, d.

Of (72) MARGARET SMITH.

(274) Angeline, 1823, m. Dr. Lemuel L. Stewart, 1818-1853. Dr. Stewart was a practicing physician in Reading, and wrote a drama entitled, "The Death of the First Born," intended to illustrate the departure of the Israelites from Egypt. It was acted at Reading by a traveling company, but the antiquity of the subject matter was a bar to its success. They had two children (576) Margaret d., and (577) Katharine, 1854-1887, m. to James Nolan, 1844, a well-known railroad contractor; they had two children.

(275) Mary, 1825, m. J. DePuy Davis, Esq., 1825. Mr. Davis was admitted to the Reading Bar in 1847. He then en-listed for the Mexican War as a private in a Kentucky regiment, and with the American army entered the City of Mexico under General Scott. He was subsequently commissioned as colonel to take charge of one of ten regiments authorized to be raised by Congress, but the war having ended the regi-ments were not called into service. Dur-ing the encampment established at Reading in 1863 Mr. Davis was appoint-ed Lieut. Col. of the 167th Regiment, Penna. Vols., under the command of Colonel Knoderer, and upon the death of that gallant officer succeeded to the command and remained with the regi-ment until it was mustered out of ser-vice.

They had one child (578) Maisey, m. to William Kerper Stevens, Esq.

(276) Jacob Bright, 1827-1887, m. Susan A. Boas. Mr. Smith was admitted to the bar in 1848. In 1852 he went to Free-port, Ill., where he entered into law partnership with his cousin Hiram Bright. He subsequently removed to Pike's Peak in Colorado territory, and was chosen Judge by the squatter sovereigns. After the territory was or-ganized he practiced law with success. He subsequently returned to Reading, where he died in 1887.

(277) Edmond L., 1829-1891, m. Magda-lena Reiner. Mr. Smith was admitted to practice in 1851, and became a very successful lawyer. He was elected to the legislature in 1858-59. In April, 1861, he joined the First Defenders and marched to Washington with the Ring-gold Artillery. After a short service he was appointed by the Secretary of War to be a captain in the 19th Infantry;

was in the battle of Chicamauga under Rosecrans and Thomas, where he was captured and sent to Libby. He escaped from the prison by means of a tunnel excavated by the prisoners, but was recaptured and sent to Charleston. After fourteen months' imprisonment he was paroled under an arrangement with the government and finally exchanged. He subsequently went to Denver, Col., where he acquired great reputation as a lawyer, and after a number of years of very successful practice, returned to Reading. He had five children, (579) John P., (580) Susan A., (581) George H., (582) Charles F., and (583) Margaret L.

(278) George, Jr., 1831, m. Ellen Leinbach, 1833. Mr. Smith was a miller and was engaged in business for a number of years. He was an adroit politician and assisted many of his party friends in their aspirations for office. He had twelve children, viz., (584) Margaret, 1854-1857, (585) Catharine, 1855, (586) Douglass, 1857, d., (587) Mary, 1859, (588) Charles, 1862, (589) Edmond, 1864, (590) Elizabeth, 1867, (591) Jacob, 1869, (592) Henry W., 1871, (593) John Fred., 1873, (594) George, 1875, and (595) Joseph, 1877.

(279) Charles, 1837-1863, m. Mary Levan, who afterward m. Peter N. Boyce.

(280) Katharine A., 1839.

Of (73) ELIZABETH PENNY, 1799-1837, AFTERWARDS ELIZABETH MARKLE.

(281) Carinda P.

(282) Mary Margaret M., 1829, of Milton, m. Mr. Griffin of Providence. They had five children, viz., (596) John M., 1854, (597) Emma E., 1856, (598) Benj. F., 1860, (599) Clarence, 1862, and (600) Clara 1863, m. to Luther Smith.

(283) Emma J. M., 1834, m. P. H. Thompson. Had three children, viz., (600½) Charles C., 1856-1888, (610) Ario M., 1861, and (602) George Wentz, 1867.

(284) George B. M., 1827-1888, m. Emily Robeson. He was a saddler by trade, but early embarked in the mining of anthracite coal near Jeddo, Pa., and realized a princely fortune. His family resided in Philadelphia, and had five children, viz., (603) Clara, 1849, (604) Ida, 1853, (605) George B., 1857, m. and had a child, George B., Jr., (606) John, 1858, m. Mary K. Robinson, and (607) Alvan, 1861, m. and has four children, Emily, 1888, Alvan, 1889, Donald and Eckley B. C. Markle.

Of (76) CATHARINE STEIGEL.

(285) Phoebe, 1805-1805.

(286) Rachael, 1807-1893, m. David Dix, of Augusta county. Had twelve children.

(287) Elizabeth, 1808-1859, m. William N. Quick, 1805-1855. They had four children, viz., (609) Nannie C., 1839, (610) William S., 1840, (611) David, 1844, d., and (612) Jacob, 1850, d.

(287) Louisa, 1810-1894, m. Michael Stover. Had six children, (613) Margaret, m. C. Bremer, (614) William A., (615) Amanda, (616) David, d., (617) Michael, d. and (618) Sarah, d., m. B. Prince.

(288) William, 1812, (289) John, 1816, (290) Jacob, 1818.

(291) Michael, 1819-1833.

(292) David, 1821-1860, m. Sarah Seibert. Had five children, (619) Cornelia, m. George Hoover, (620) John M., m. Magdalen Keller, (621) Elizabeth, m. Henry Henkel, and (622) Alice, m. S. A. Henkel, and (623) Charles D.

(293) Charles, 1824, m. 1st Sarah Kauffman; had by her five children; (624) William, (625) John J., (626) Wampler, (627) Charles, and (628) Sarah; m. 2d and had six children, (629) Herbert, (630) Nannie, (631) Alice, (632) Grace, (633) William, and (634) Lulu.

(294) Sarah M. J., 1827, m. Frank Koerner; had ten children, (635) Charles W., 1845, (636) Elvy E., 1847, (637) Sarah M., 1849, (638) Virginia, 1850, (639) David, 1856, (640) John M., 1857, (641) Pinckney H., 1859, (642) Emma S., 1869, (643) Edward L., 1862, and (644) Mary L., 1867.

Of (80) CATHARINE PAXTON.

(295) Bright, 18—, m. Emaline Barton, of Muncy.

(296) Charles R., 181-1888, m. Rachel Charles; two children, (644) Margaret, m. Mr. Christian, and

(297) May P., m. George Scott; two children, viz., (645) Kate M., m. 1st Mr. Reifsnnyder, and 2d J. W. Willetz, by whom she had three children; Mary M., Kate M. and Dr. Joseph C.; and (646) George A., m. Ada Robins; one child, Jennie.

(298) Joseph P., had two children, one (647) Alexis R., lieutenant U. S. A.

(299) Harriet, m. Mr. Vastine, of St. Louis; three children.

(300) Sarah, m. Mr. Bell; had two children.

(301) Frank, m. Susan Lloyd, of Philadelphia.

(302) Lloyd, 1829, lives at Rupert, Pa.

Of (91) LEONARD B. RUPERT.

(303) Clara, 1832, m. Dr. William H. Parks; had six children, (648) Leonard P., 1859, (649) Elizabeth P., 1866, (650) Ala P., 1868, (651) Alzoa P., 1869, (652) Ann R. P., 1872-1892, and (653) Eva P., 1874.

(304) Sarah, 1834, m. Daniel Steck, of Williamsport. Had three children, viz., (654) Eva, 1865, m. E. A. Chamberlin and had two children, Helen and Edwin; (655) Harriet, 1869, m. Willard Wise and had two children, Daniel and Eugene.

Of (92) SARAH H. YERGER.

(305) Henry, 1812-1852, m. 1st ———, by whom he had one child, (656) Henry S., m. 2d ———, by whom he had three children, viz., (657) George B., (658) David, and (659) Sarah C., m. Mr. Thomas.

(306) D. Bright, 1816-1881, m. 1st Ruth

Jones, 18—1846, by whom he had three children; (660) Henry, 1841-1892, m. Frances, —; no issue; (661) Charles, 1843-1864, killed by railroad accident on his return from the army, and (662) Sarah B., 1844, m. 1st William H. Bowers, 1841-1880; m. 2d Francis G. Neff; D. Bright, m. 2d Catharine E. Kredel, 1829, by whom he had six children, viz., (663) Henry, 1847, (664) John K., 1848-1878, m. Julia Jennings, children, Henry B., 1871, Anni J., 1872, and John K., 1878 (665) Catharine H., 1860-1885, m. Millard Goodhart, 1860-1885, of Hackensack, N. J.; (666) Mary, 1867, m. Ralf Gable, (667) Leonard K., 1856, Cheteau, Ind. Ter., and (668) Frank, 1859, in asylum at Harrisburg.

(307) Annetta B., 1817-1898, m. Herman Beard, 1810-1885. Mr. Beard was for many years the landlord of the Farmers' Hotel on North Fifth street. They had six children, viz., (669) Samuel, 1840, m. Helen Reed, one child, George; (670) William, (671) Ella, and (672) Emma, (673) Sarah, 1845, m. Al. Schnackenburg; divorced in 1876; had children, Minerva, m. E. Cuberly, and Anetta, m. Frank Hanson, (674) William, 1850, m. divorced.

(308) William B., 1821-1883, m. Catharine Knopp; had children, (675) Anetta, m. Mr. Idler; one child, William; (676) Henry B., attorney at Philadelphia, d. 1893; (677) Rosa, m. Henry Stevenson, and (678) David.

(309) Evaline, 1823-1888, m. John C. Myers. Mr. Myers was a printer by trade and long published in connection with his father, Samuel, the Berks County Press, and was a member of the state (House) legislature, 1847-1849. They had one child, (679) Sarah G., m. Richard Meyers, who moved to Lamar, Mo.

(310) Catharine, 1826, m. Dr. L. Finney Caldwell, 1825-1863; had six children, three of whom are living, viz., (680) Sarah, 1849, m. J. W. Muffly, 18—1893, (681) Mary, 1851, and (682) William 1857.

Of (94) ABIGAIL FISLER.

(311) Catharine, 1818, m. George Mitchell, 1813-1886. Mrs. Mitchell lives at Harrisburg, Pa. They had eight children, viz., (683) Anna M., 1838-1845, (684) Francis M., 1840-1857, (685) Isabella M., 1842, m. Benj. H. Bower, d. 1873; had two children, Clara F., 1867, m. George Trilly, and George M., 1872; (686) George F. M., 1844-1862, (687) Chas. M., 1846, m. Eliza Y. Horn, 1847, 2 children; Bessie Y., 1876, and Gertrude E., 1879; (688) Mary M., 1841; (689) Jane F., m. 1850, and (690) Catharine B., m. 1853-1853.

(312) Jane, 1820-1856 m. Solon Fleming 1811. Lives at Des Moines, Ia., had 3 children; (691) Letitia F., 1846 m. Benj. C. White 1822-1888, had 4 children; Geo. F., 1866-1868, Grace M., 1872, Benj. F., 1873-1875, and Pearlatta 1876; (692)

Geo. T., 1844-1874, and (693) John, 1848.

(313) Geo. B., 1823, m. Emma L. Moore, 1829. Is a machinist by trade and lives at Shamokin, Pa. They had 7 children; (694) Annie B., 1853, m. Levi B. Morganroth 1846-1877, who had 5 children; Emma L., 1879, Chas. K., 1881, Geo. F., 1884, Frank B., 1885-1885, and Theodosia, 1897; (695) Geo. M., 1855, m. Mary Hach 1870, one child, Margaret, 1896; (696) Frank B., 1857; (697) Mary M., 1860; (698) Sarah J., 1863-1865; (699) Jennie F., 1868-1869, and (700) Theodosia, 1872.

(314) Hester H., 1825-1826.

(315) Jacob G., 1827, m. Margaret McWilliams 1831, of Chester Co., agent for sale of timber and lives in Phila. Had 7 children; (701) Louisa, 1851; (702) Sarah McW., 1855; (703) Geo., 1857-1885; (704) Arthur B., 1859; (705) Henry M., 1864; (706) DeLacey W., 1870, in Brazil, and (707) Verner W., 1873-1875.

(316) Louisa, 1830, m. Rev. T. DeLacey Wardlow, 1820-1879. Had 11 children, viz.: (708) James C., 1853, of War Trace, Tenn; (709) Maggie F., 1854-1859; (710) DeLacey, 1856; (711) Abbey B., 1858 m. Philip Scudder; (712) Vernon S., 1861; (713) Verina D., 1863 m. Geo. Burke, Atty., Kingston, Tenn.; (714) Louisa, 1866, m. Geo. R. Clayton, of Fort Worth, Tex.; (715) Maud B., 1868 m. Albert Alley; (716) Caroline N., 1870; (717) Samantha L., 1872-1877, and (718) Gladstone, 1877, Fort Worth, Tex.

OF (95) WILLIAM BRIGHT.

(317) S. Louisa, 1831 m. Chancy Lawson; (318) Geo. L., 1833 m. Mary Wood. Had 4 children: (719) Charles; (720) Mabel; (721) William, and (722) Henry (319) Susan, 1837 m. James Boyer; (320) Lydia C., 1840; (321) Wm. J., 1843. (322) Ruus, 1847, and (323) Francis, 1847.

OF (96) CATHARINE H. GREEN.

(324) Albert G., 1828 m. Rebecca Dickinson 1836. Mr. Green was graduated at Yale college in 1849 and was admitted to the Berks County Bar in 1851, where he has been engaged in law practice to the present time. He is president of the Historical Society of Berks County. They had eight children, viz., (723) Henry D., 1857, graduated at Yale in 1877, admitted to the bar in 1879; member of the state (Ho.) Legislature 1884-1888, and of the Senate 1888-1896. Elected to Congress in 1899 to fill vacancy caused by death of Hon. Daniel Ermentrout and re-elected in 1900. He is practicing law at Reading, Pa.; (724) Ella E., 1859; (725) Emily, 1861-1864; (726) Herbert R., 1864, graduated at Yale in 1885, admitted to the Bar in 1887; (727) Geo. W., 1867, m. Mary Rose, has 2 children: Albert and Catharine; (728) Elizabeth D., 1869; (729) Anna B., 1874, m. Roberdean Annan, Cashier of National Bank of Frostburg, Md., one child, and (730) Julia, 1877.

In 1898 Henry D. Green, above named,

raised a company of 108 men for service in the Spanish-American War and was commissioned as its captain. After being several months in the camp of instruction at Chattanooga, the company was preparing to embark for Porto Rico, when the sudden close of the war ended the term of enlistment, and the Ninth Regiment, P. V., to which he was attached, was mustered out of service.

(325) Erastus R., 1830, m. Adella Ives, of St. Louis, Mo. Lives at Chicago, Ill. Mr. Green graduated at Yale college in 1851, is an attorney and has long been connected with the title department of a prominent real estate firm. Has one child, (731) Jessie.

(326) David B., 1831-1893, m. Catharine Brooke, of Pottsville. Mr. Green was graduated at Yale college in 1852; studied law with John S. Richards, Esq., and was soon after admitted as an attorney of the Berks County Bar. In 1857 he removed to Pottsville, where he soon enjoyed a successful practice. During the "Molly McGuire" troubles in the coal regions, under a special act of Assembly he was appointed Judge of the Criminal Court of Lebanon and Schuylkill counties, and many of the Molly McGuire murderers were convicted in his court. He served as Major of the Pennsylvania regiment raised in Schuylkill county during the Rebellion, and after his return he resumed the practice of the law. In 1882 he was elected Judge of the Common Pleas of Schuylkill county and was re-elected in 1892. Mr. Green had three children, viz., (731) Ida, 1872, (732) Catharine, 1873, and (733) Douglass, 1881, who are living with their mother at Pottsville.

(327) Emily E., 1833.

(328) Nathaniel, 1836-1873. He entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., in 1852, and graduated in 1856. During the Rebellion promotions in the navy were rapid, and he rose to be a Lieut. Commander. He was with Farragut at the capture of Mobile, and was second in command of the U. S. ship Kathadin, while passing the forts on the lower Mississippi, which resulted in the capture of New Orleans. Was afterwards engaged in patrolling the Mississippi as far as Vicksburg. His last service was in a three year cruise mainly off the Pacific coast of South America in the U. S. Steamer Resaca, of which he was in sole command. In 1892 the vessel returned to San Francisco, where during a fearful storm he contracted pulmonary disease which he survived but a short time.

George W., 1839-1866. He joined the First Defenders the day after he reached Washington, in April 1861, was soon after appointed a Lieutenant in the Seventeenth United States Infantry, under General Sumner; was with

McClellan during the Peninsular campaign against Richmond, participated in the second battle of Bull Run, and the battles of South Mountain and Fredericksburg. In July, 1863, he took part in the battle of Gettysburg, and commanded a section of the Seventeenth U. S. Infantry at Little Round Top, where in crossing the "Devil's Den" he was wounded by a shell and led off the field. For gallant conduct in this action he was promoted to a captaincy and placed on recruiting service, with headquarters at Hart's Island in New York harbor, where he died of erysipelas in January 1866.

(329) Francis M., 1841 m. Mary LeTour of St. Louis. He was for many years engaged in railroading in the West. He lived at Clinton, Mo., a number of years, afterwards at St. Louis, and latterly at Tacoma, in the state of Washington.

(330) Annie B., 1844-1873.

Of (97) PETER BRIGHT.

(331) Rebecca B., 1828, m. Emanuel Sidler of Montour county.

(332) Hiram, 1834, m. Rhoda N. Butler, 18—-1889.

(333) Dennis, 1839, m. Lucy M. Reaz. A member of the Pennsylvania legislature from the Montour district.

(334) Pennina, 1844.

(335) Philip, d., 1846-1873, assassinated at Phoenix, Arizona.

(336) Abigail, 1848, m. William Auchincloss of Gladbrook, Ia.

(337) Mary, 1852-1891.

Of (100) AARON BRIGHT.

(338) Fred'k, 1830, m. Amanda Moser, 18—-1867. Mr. Bright after wasting a number of years in trying to improve an exhausted farm on the eastern shore of Maryland, finally sold it at a loss and moved to his father's lands in the Shenandoah valley, just above Winchester, Va., where he resumed farming a tract of land subsequently devised to him by his father's will. He had nine children, viz., (734) Harry, (735) Preston, (736) Annie, (737) Ida, (738) Alice, (739) Howard, (740) Ella Clara, m. Wilson Miller and (741) Stewart.

(339) Benj. F., 1831-189—, m. Phoebe A. McCormick. Had one child, viz., (742) William, m. and lives at Topeka, Kan.

(340) David, 1834-1866, went to California early in life, and after a number of years returned to Reading with a considerable amount of gold. But his roving nature did not permit him to live long in the quietude of his home, and he soon after left for Texas, where he was assassinated. Of the causes that led to his death no particulars were received.

(341) Catharine, 1836, m. George W. Smith, 1826-1875. She had nine children, viz., (743) Harry, (744) Preston, (745) Annie, (746) Ida, m. Mr. Noll, (746½)

Alice, (747) Howard, (747½) Ella, (748) Clara, m. Wilson Miller, and (749) Stewart.

(342) Aaron, 1838-1872, m. Mary Gehris. He lived at Lebanon, Pa., and had two children, (750) Mary J., m. Mr. Plantz, and (751) Grant Bright.

(342½) Harrison, 1840, m. Sarah Nagle.

(343) Michael, 1842, m. Anna J. Ulrich. 1848. Passenger conductor on the Reading & Columbia R. R. He formerly lived in Lebanon, but lately removed to Reading. Has four children, viz., (752) George W., (753) Henry W., (754) Howard M., and (755) Charles A., who is a Lutheran preacher at Norristown, Pa.

(344) Mary Jane, 1846, m. William P. Butz, of Reading. They had two children, (756) Minerva E., and (757) Ella B., m. Elmer Smith.

(345) Winfield, 1846-1847.

(346) William Preston, 1847, m. Laura Price, of Reading, and had three children, viz., (758) B. Virginia, (759) Mary E., and (760) M. Augusta.

(347) Ella, 1850, m. Jacob Keller, d. Has two children, (761) William B., and (762) Florence Virginia, m. Daniel Burkhard.

(348) Francis, 1849, m. Kate Evans, (349) John, 1854, m. Sallie Smith. Passenger conductor on the Perkiomen railroad; (350) Rose, 1863-1864, (351) Henry August, 1866-1870, (352) Sarah E., 1867, m. Edward Grove, (353) Edwin E., 1872.

Of (112) SAMUEL BRIGHT.

(354) Michael, 1827, (355) Lavina, 1830, (356) Amanda, 1832, (357) William, 1835, and (358) Sarah, 1839.

Of (115) PETER BRIGHT.

(359) Rachel, 18—1896, (360) Elizabeth, (361) Mary, and (362) a son, a captain in the Union army.

Of (121) GEORGE BRIGHT.

(363) Rev. John A., of Topeka, Kan. Had two children, (763) Rev. George, 18—, and (764) Luther.

Of (124) SAMUEL BRIGHT.

(364) Mary Elizabeth, 1844, (365) Sarah A., 1847, (366) Barbara J., 1840, (367) James W., 1852. He is professor of English literature in Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore (368) Dr. John W., 1854, and (368a) Margaret, 1857-1853.

Of (136) GEORGE HELLER.

(369) Frederick P., 1834, m. Rose E. Snyder. Mr. Heller has carried on a lumber yard in Reading for many years. He was at one time a member of the City Councils and is at present serving as one of the Water Commissioners of the city. He has two children, (765) Kate, 1860, m. William A. Huff, and (766) Caroline, 1862, m. William Kessler.

(370) Joseph F., 1836-1836, (371) James Aug., 1837-1864, m. Anna Briner; one child, viz., (766½) Charles H. Heller, 1862, who is a printer and bookbinder.

(372) Mary Catharine, 1842, (373) Francis K., 1844-1862, (374) Charles H., 1846-1856, (375) Philip K., 1849, m. Has

two children, (767) Margaret, B., 1876, and (768) Frederick B., 1882, (376) Emmelle C., 1850, and (377) Rose C.

Of (150) AMELIA FRICKER.

(378) William, d., m. Amelia Seitzinger, (379) Sarah, (380) Ellen, m. George Ruth, (381) Clara, m. Peter Benson.

Of (157) GEORGE BRIGHT, 1810-1885.

(382) Joseph C., 1840, m. Jane L. Irwin, 1843. Mr. Bright conducts an extensive hardware store in Reading, with a branch store at Pottsville in charge of his brother George. Has six children, viz., (769) Hannah L., 1867, (770) John, 1869, (771) G. Howard, 1872, (772) Edward, (773) Harris L., and (774) Stanley.

(383) Emily B., m. George Chambers, (384) George L.

(385) Matilda, lives in Dresden, Germany.

(386) William H., moved to Buffalo, N. Y., where he died.

Of (162) ANN ELIZA GOODHART.

(387) Frederick, m. Margaret, (388) Reuben B., (389) Alice, m. William Bitting, (390) Charlotte, m. Wm. Schwartz.

Of (165) MARIA McDONNELL.

(391) Ellen, m. Arthur Wells.

(392) Kate, m. Charles Briner, Ohio, (393) Daniel.

Of (169) MICHAEL GRAHAM BRIGHT.

(394) Michael S., m. Sarah Lodge. Had two children, (775) Michael S., m. Miss Carnahan, and (776) Sarah B.

(395) Richard J., m. Letitia Smith. He was for many years Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate. He had three children, viz., (777) M. Brooke, (778) Frank S., and (779) Richard R.

(396) Rachael, m. J. Haldeman; had three children, (780) Jeremiah Graham, d., (781) Mary, and (782) Brooke, m. Mrs. Beusburg.

(397) Martha, m. George Griffin and had six children, viz., (783) George, (784) William, (785) Michael, (786) Mary, (787) Martha, and (788) Brooke.

(398) Hannah, m. J. W. Nichol; had five children, viz., (789) Graham B.

(399) Mary, m. Charles Korbly; had three children, viz., (790) Mary, m. S. McNutt, (791) Charles, and (792) William.

(400) George, d., m. Lila Morton; had four children, viz., (793) Judith, d., m. Mr. Castle, (794) Hollie, d., (795) Mary, m. Mr. La Rue, and (796) M. Richard, m. Miss Everhart.

(401) William, d., m. Mary Francisco; had two children, (797) William, d., and (798) Sarah, d.

OF (171) JESSE D. BRIGHT.

(402) Jesse J., 1842 m., resides at Columbus, O.

(403) Frances B., 184—, m. Maj. Win. Moss, of Paducah, Ky.

(404) Georgiana.

OF (173) GEO. M. BRIGHT.

(405) Fergerson G., 1843; (406) Jesse D., 1844-1874; (407) George A., died

young; (408) Adam S., d. young; (409) Hannah S., 1818-1876 m. B. W. Hawes; (410) David G., 1851, m. Ida Surrall, of Hancock, Ky.

(411) Rachael A., 1853 m. Edward Hawes; (412) Minerva, 1855 m. B. W. Hawes; (413) Mary J., 1858-1875; (414) Horatio S., 1860 m. Augustus Caldwell, of Louisville, Ky., and (415) Mattie B., m. Mr. Hawes.

OF (175) THOS. JEFF. BRIGHT.

(416) George Bolivar; (417) Jefferson, killed at Seven Pines in the Confederate service; (418) Corinne; (419) James, and (420) David.

OF (176) DR. DAVID BRIGHT.

(421) Dr. Wm. M., 1848 m. Eugenie Allen, of Hickman, Ky. They had 5 children, (793) Leila 1874; (800) Kyle; (801) David; (802) Allen, and (803) Dr. Wm.

(421½) Mary, 1850-1872, m. Jos. Hart. Had 2 children, (805) Ellen 1870, and (806) Luther 1872.

(422) John B., 1870 m. Anna Farris. Had 4 children, (807) William; (808) Charles; (809) Fortune, and (810) Frank.

(423) Ellen E., 1862 m. Rev. F. Wayrick. Had 2 children, (811) Margaret, and (812) Bright.

OF (177) REV. GEORGE BRIGHT.

(424) Samuel G., 1843-1844, (424½) Mary, 1844, (425) Sarah F., of Oxford, Ga.; (426) George, and (427) Margaret.

OF (178) REV. JOHN M. BRIGHT.

(428) George, 1858, (429) Clara 1859; Tilghman, of Norfolk, Va.; (430) James T., 1860; (431) Mary E., 1863, m. Albert Scroggins, and had 2 sons.

(432) John, 1864, (433) Charles 1867, and (434) Styles 1869.

OF (179) MARGARET BOND.

(435) Sarah, d. young, (436) Geo. F. 1849-1887, m. Emma Wood, moved to Texas and had one son, (813) John.

OF (180) MICHAEL BRIGHT.

(437) Dr. David 1850-1878, (438) Samuel G., 1862-1879, and (439) Joseph 1860.

OF (181) SAMUEL G. BRIGHT.

(440) George M., of Abingdon, Va., (441) Zedekiah; (442) Maud, and (443) Margaret.

OF (182) ELIZABETH TURNER.

(444) Jennie.

OF (194) MARY P. CAMPBELL.

(445) Julia A., 1830, m. A. W. Russell, 1825.

(446) Leonidas C., 1831-1878, m. Mary Kennedy, 1831.

(447) Christiana V., 1836, m. Frederick L. Moore, 1835. They had children, (814) Ellen, of Washington, D. C., and (815) Dr. William Moore, of New York city.

Here ends the Bright family pedigree. The first generation comprises the emigrant Michael Brecht alone. The second is embraced between Nos. (2) and (11) inclusive. The third between (12) and (56); the fourth between (57) and (195); the fifth between (196) and (447), and the sixth between (448) and (815).

In the above are included some ~~fifty~~ numbers, owing to accidental omissions. Names belonging to the 4th, 5th and 6th generation are not inserted for the reason that they have not been reported. Our task closes here. We leave to some future family historian to add to the list, and if possible make it complete.

THE BRIGHTS OF BERN TOWNSHIP.

Our sketch would be incomplete did we not refer to the very considerable family of Brights which spread from Bern township northwards and westwards to the limits of the county of Berks, and who are still largely represented in the townships of Penn. Jefferson, Centre, the Tulpehockens, the Heidelbergs, the Berns and Bernville. Their ancestor was David Brecht, who was a resident of Bern township long before the organization of the county in 1752. His name will be found on every extant assessment list up to the period of his death in 1783. He was a large owner of valuable lands near Bernville and exercised no small influence among the people of his neighborhood. In 1771 he was elected county commissioner and served till 1773, when he was succeeded by (2) Michael Brecht Senior. By his will on file in the Register's office, after providing for his wife Sarah, he devised to his only son, John, his large plantation of 500 acres, and gives to each of his seven daughters viz., Margaret, m. to Philip Himmelburg; Elizabeth, m. to Jacob Conrad; Magdalena, m. to Conrad Reber; Catharine, m. to Philip Filbert; Susanna, m. to George Geiss; Sarah, m. to David Bucks, and Barbara, m. to Peter Filbert, the sum of £900, almost a fortune at that early day. John Bright died in 1834, leaving a widow, Anna Maria, and seven children, viz., Peter, Jacob, David, John, Mary, m. to David Arnold; Sarah, m. to Thomas Feters, and Susanna Bright. David and John moved to Ohio. His son Jacob, 1792-1875, remained on part of the land near Bernville and was well known to the writer of this sketch. His son, Amandon Bright, was elected Treasurer of Berks county several years ago, but has since died. In a conversation with him relative to his ancestry I found he could go no further back than his grandfather, John Bright.

As David Bright, of Reading, and John Bright, of Bern, occasionally visited each other, the inference was that the relationship between them was not very distant, and the probability seemed very strong that David Brecht, of Bern, who died in 1783, was a brother of the emigrant, Michael. This would make Johannes Brecht, of Schriesheim, their common ancestor. But the accidental finding of a deed on record in

Deed Book, vol. 1, in the Recorder's office, dated April 17, 1754, in which David Brecht, of Bern township, conveyed to his brother Hannes a tract of land on the Tulpehocken, showed that the father of the parties to the deed was Stephen, of Lancaster (now Berks) county, to whom the Penns conveyed the tract in 1745, that Stephen died in 1746, and

that it was acquired by his son David by proceedings after his death. As the Brights of Bern are not descended from the immediate ancestor of the emigrant, they need not be further considered in this connection.

A. G. GREEN.

November, 1900.

CORRECTIONS.

Page 15—(64) George Bright, m. Harriet Franks.

Page 15—(69) Jacob R Bright, m. Sarah A. Witman.

Page 21—(250) Margaret Lanigan, had six children, viz., (521) Sarah B., m. Jos. Bruce; (522) Laura M., m. George W. Williams; (523) Catharine P., m. Adam H. Schmehl, Esq.; (524) Annie; (525) Mary M., d.; (526) Jerome B., d.

Page 21—(270) George Bechtel, m. 1st Anna O'Dear; had two children, (572) William L., m. Annetta Rapp; (573) Sarah L., m. Jacob Stimme!; m. 2d Ellen Sheridan; had three children,

viz., (573a) Charles S., 1858, m. Emma Snovel; (573b) Emma, 1859, m. Grant S. Oaks; (573c) Annie Estella, 1861, m. Lewis G. Early.

Page 22—(605) George B. Markle, (606) John Markle. They are both coal operators near Hazleton, Pa.

Page 23—(307) Annetta Beard; had three children, viz., (669) Samuel, 1840, m. Helen Reed; had four children, viz., George, William, Ella and Emma; (673) Sallie, 1845, m. Al. Snackenberg; had two children, Minerva, m. E. Cuberly, and Annetta, m. Frank Hanson; (674) William, 1850, m., divorced.

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