

GENEALOGICAL AND
PERSONAL HISTORY

OF THE

ALLEGHENY VALLEY

PENNSYLVANIA

UNDER THE EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OF

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(The Dale Line).

(I) Among the troops which William, Prince of Orange, sent from England to Ireland, about the year 1690, was a Charles Dale, who after the rebellion was ended, seeing the fertility of the country, married and remained in Ireland, in the city of Armagh, Monaghan

county. What family he had the writer of this does not know, except one son, Samuel, of whom further.

(II) Samuel, son of Charles Dale, resided in Monaghan county, Ireland, and reared a family. His sons were Nathaniel, Mathew, Samuel, of whom further. Daughters names not recollected, nor whom they married, except one who married a man by the name of McCord, and lived in Pittsburgh.

(III) Samuel (2), youngest son of Samuel (1) Dale, was born in 1735, died September 27, 1804. He came to America in 1766. He raised a company for the defense of the frontier, and was commissioned, January 24, 1776, captain of the Fourth Company of the Second Battalion Northumberland County Associators. This battalion was commanded by Colonel James Potter, afterwards a brigadier-general. It was in service near Philadelphia in the spring of that year, and participated in the Jersey campaign during the summer of 1776; also on the frontiers of Northumberland, in protecting themselves from marauding savages.

He was elected to the assembly, where he took his seat in September, 1776; was elected to the legislature of Pennsylvania, from the county of Northumberland, successively from the year 1776 to 1796 inclusive, and during twenty years was in the legislative bodies of the state, aiding in the establishing of the government and in framing its laws. He was a firm supporter of equal rights. He was representative of the councils which met in Philadelphia, December 4, 1778, and elected Joseph Reed president and George Bryan vice-president of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania; on November 11, 1779, elected Joseph Reed president and William Moore vice-president of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania; November 6th, elected John Dickenson president and James Irwin vice-president; on November 4, 1786, elected Benjamin Franklin president and Charles Biddle vice-president, the certificates of whose elections, as also of Thomas Mifflin in 1796, are now hanging in the executive chambers at Harrisburg. Among the attractions at the state capitol at Harrisburg are sundry time marked documents, in appropriate frames, ornamenting the governor's room. They are kept and guarded as precious relics, as memorial treasures. Among these are the original commissions issued to the presidents

and vice-presidents of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To these commissions are subscribed the names of the members of the general assembly, and of the supreme executive council of the state. In this body was vested the appointing power, and the name of Samuel Dale appears signed to each commission.

He was tall, finely proportioned, supposed to have been about six feet seven inches, with blue eyes and flaxen hair. While in the senate at Philadelphia, his wife, getting word that he was sick, led a horse and went on horseback herself to see him and bring him home, when the greater part of the road was only an interior trail. He died at his home in Northumberland county (now Union county), near Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, September 27, 1804, interred in the new cemetery at Lewisburg.

He married Anne, daughter of Samuel and Ruth Steele Futhey, of Chester county, Pennsylvania, January 17, 1769. She was granddaughter of Robert Futhey, of Chester county, Pennsylvania, and great-granddaughter of Robert Futhey, of Belfast, Ireland. The Futheys came originally from Arbraoth, formerly called Angus, on the east coast of Scotland, north of Edinboro. They were an influential family. Alexander and Henry Futhey were members of parliament under Charles II. Robert Futhey, who between the years 1725 and 1730 came to this country, settled in the southern part of Chester county, Pennsylvania. He had two children—Robert and Anne. Anne Futhey Dale was born November 3, 1750, died April 25, 1835, interred in the new cemetery at Lewisburg. Ruth Steele, born 1719, was daughter of Samuel Steele, of New London township, and granddaughter of Ninian Steele, of the north of Ireland, who came to this country and died in 1745, in Chester county. Children of Mr. and Mrs. Dale: 1. Ruth, born January 15, 1770, died September 1, 1838; married (first) John Hindman, (second) William Russell. 2. Samuel, of whom further. 3. William, born January 15, 1775, died September 12, 1857; married Elizabeth Alexander. 4. Jane, born January 1, 1778, died May 1, 1857; married John Clarke. 5. James, born August 3, 1780, died September 11, 1862; married Elizabeth Bell. 6. Anne, born April 6, 1783, died May 12, 1851; married John McClay. 7. Mary, born April 6, 1788, died October 29, 1829; married James Strawbridge. 8. Elizabeth, born September, 1790, died 1879;

married Aaron Chamberlin. 9. Margaret, born April 24, 1794, died November 4, 1861; married John Simonton.

(IV) Colonel Samuel (3) Dale, second child and oldest son of Samuel (2) Dale, was born July 16, 1773, died September 1, 1842. He was a prominent figure in the early public and military history of Venango county. He came to Franklin in 1801, having been appointed the year before as deputy surveyor of Venango county by Samuel Cochran. The first tract surveyed was for Peter Dempsey, where Dempseytown now stands. In 1809 he received a commission for Warren county. In 1802 he was elected colonel of the militia, and commissioned by Governor McKean. In 1807 he was elected by the electors of Venango county and Mercer county, their representative to the assembly of Pennsylvania, and successively until 1813. On the 27th day of July, 1813, by orders of Major-General Meade, he marched the regiment, which he still continued to command, to the town of Erie, to the protection of Captain Perry and the vessels built by him while putting them over the bar at the outlet of the basin while preparing for the engagement. On the 6th of January, 1814, he again received marching orders and news of the burning of Buffalo, and that three thousand men, with their Indian allies, were marching towards Erie. He again made a forced march with his regiment to the protection of Erie. On February 10, 1814, the One Hundred and Thirty-second Regiment was honorably discharged, and all discharge papers were signed by Colonel Samuel Dale. As late as 1885 an old woman came to W. W. Dale, grandson of Colonel Dale, with her father's discharge paper, asking if she were not entitled to some pension or land. The sight of that signature caused Mr. Dale to secure her a pension as quickly as it could be done.

The early land improvements were located by Samuel Dale, and he also subdivided the greater portion of the Holland Land Company's land, later known as the Lancaster Land Company's lands in Crawford, Erie, Venango, Warren, and what is now Clarion and part of Forest counties. He made these surveys through the unbroken forest, often times impeded by vast growths of almost impenetrable laurel. Judge Samuel Porter Johnson writing in "Venango County History," says:

These lands aggregated one hundred and seventy thousand acres. This big job of surveying Mr. Dale performed in the summer season of 1814, finish-

ing his surveys and making a connected map of the whole in 1815. He divided that land into seven hundred lots or tracts, and numbered them, ran and marked every line, and carved the number of every tract on a tree at one of its corners. Then he made a connected draft of the whole, showing the number of each and the kind of tree marked. That was one of the best jobs of surveying ever done in Pennsylvania. I speak advisedly. My long professional life and practice has made me familiar with most of the original land surveys in every part of the state. The lines and corners run and marked by Colonel Dale can be traced and found today as fast as a man can walk through the woods. While we have a great deal of litigation about other surveys, no dispute has ever come into court to my knowledge about any line or corner established by Colonel Dale for the Lancaster Land Company.

During his early life there were frequent hostilities between the Indians and the white people; his parents and neighbors were driven from their homes more than once; and there was constant danger from marauding savages. There were also frequent visits from friendly Indians, and then and later, when serving in Northumberland county, in his nineteenth year, as lieutenant of the Seventh Company, Sixth Battalion (commissioned November 12th, June 1st, 1792, by Thomas Mifflin), he became thoroughly acquainted with the Indian character. The courage of Colonel Dale and his men in venturing into the dense forests to make those surveys aroused the admiration of Cornplanter, a noted chief of the Senecas, a bold, strong-willed and powerful savage, a fierce old Sagamore, wielding through a gift of eloquence a strong influence over the six nations. He was hostile to white settlers. He claimed that the Great Spirit had given these hunting grounds to his people, and they were all free until the big canoes came over the water, and the white man ought not to fence them in. Colonel Dale succeeded in gaining the friendship of the Chief, and assisted materially in reconciling him to the presence of the white people. When he was starting with his regiment to Erie Cornplanter came to Franklin with two hundred braves, and it was with difficulty that he was deterred from going. Colonel Dale after his marriage in 1812 began life in Franklin. He moved to Lancaster in 1813, but spent much time in Venango county until 1818, when he settled permanently in Lancaster. In 1829 he returned to Western Pennsylvania in the interest of Franklin College of which he was a trustee, and received a great ovation. The early citizens gathered in from every part of the county to grasp the hand of one who was

known to every one either personally or by reputation, and whose name was long a household word.

By his varied knowledge he had been exceedingly useful to his neighbors and friends among the early settlers by advice in the matter of making applications for patents for lands; his legal knowledge and friendly advice was most freely given on every subject in which one neighbor could assist another. A visitor present at the time wrote, "I got there my first idea of an ovation—the expression of a people for a favorite." He served in a number of offices in Lancaster city, as alderman, judge of the court of common pleas and oyer and terminer. He was elected associate judge, but in the absence of the president judge was requested by the bar to act as president judge and served twenty years in that capacity, receiving by act of legislature the salary of a president judge. So far as the writer ever knew or heard he was the only man who was a president judge who had not been admitted to the bar as a lawyer. There was abundant proof that he gave satisfaction. While in Venango county he was remembered as Colonel Dale; he was known in Lancaster as Judge Dale. A man of fine social qualities and conversational powers, of dignified bearing, courteous manners, and unquestioned personal integrity, his public life was honorable to himself and valuable to the generation in which he lived. Colonel Dale was a Presbyterian and a Democrat.

On November 9, 1812, Colonel Samuel Dale married (first) Eliza Gundaker, born December 10, 1787, died July 3, 1830, daughter of Michael and Barbara Gundaker, and granddaughter of Michael and Ann Margaret (Smith) Gundaker, of Nassau, Germany. Her father was a merchant in Lancaster City. Children of Samuel and Eliza (Gundaker) Dale: 1. Anna Mary, born September 18, 1813, died October 23, 1900. 2. Michael Gundaker, born November 30, 1814, died April 1, 1896; judge of courts in Edwardsville, Illinois. 3. Samuel Futhey, of whom further. 4. William Walter, born November 15, 1817, died February 25, 1891; was a physician of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. 5. Barbara Ann, born August 31, 1819, died October 23, 1823. 6. James John, born February 28, 1821, died July 12, 1847; merchant in Mechanicsville, Pennsylvania. 7. Elizabeth Gundaker, born February 24, 1823, died December, 1903; married William M.

Black, merchant, of St. Louis, Missouri. 8. Catherine Clementina, born April 8, 1825, died September 2, 1902; married Robert Evans, banker, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. 9. Charles Henry, born September 3, 1827, of Franklin, Pennsylvania. Four years after the death of his wife, Colonel Dale married (second) Leah Lightener, of Paradise, Pennsylvania, who survived him until February 29, 1886, at the age of ninety-seven years, almost a centenarian.

(V) Samuel Futhey, son of Colonel Samuel (3) and Eliza (Gundaker) Dale, was born March 7, 1816, died June 2, 1876. He came to Franklin in his eighteenth year to look after lands owned by his father. Receiving a warm welcome from his father's friends, he remained and eventually made his home there. The town was small, and its character and institutions were just forming. He identified himself with every public enterprise ever inaugurated in this community, calculated to open up and develop the country, until failing health obliged him to rest. Certainly no man ever did more. Among his ventures was the establishment of a line of stage coaches between Erie and Pittsburgh, a great necessity at the time. Those coaches, each drawn by four horses have long been superseded by railroads, but there are still a few persons living who can recall the pleasurable excitement of their daily arrival at Franklin. He next engaged in the iron business at Franklin Furnace, carried on a forge, saw mill and grist mill, and later carried on the Buchanan furnace. In 1843 he was associated with Knock Dangerfield & Company in a rolling mill and nail mill, until the iron ore in the county was exhausted. Among smaller local enterprises in which he was a leading spirit was the rebuilding of the bridges over the Allegheny river at Eighth street, and over French creek at Thirteenth street.

"He took an active part in securing the completion of the Jamestown and Franklin railroad, after work upon it had ceased, upon its construction as far east as Stoneboro, and to that end became a subscriber to its stock and bonds; was one of four gentlemen who in 1861, in order to secure the construction of the railroad from Meadville to Franklin, became bound to pay for the right of way upon condition that that should be completed before the completion of the then projected railroad from Corry to Titusville. (Hist. Venango Co)." He was one of the promoters and directors of the First National Bank of Franklin, the Franklin and

Oil City Turnpike, of the Venango Water Company, the Venango Mills, and the Galena Oil Refinery.

In 1840 he married Eliza, daughter of George and Agnes (Seaton) McClelland, and granddaughter of George and Jane (McKnight) McClelland, of Ballabay, Monaghan county, Ireland, also granddaughter of George and Nancy (Amberson) Seaton. Children of Samuel Futhey and Eliza (McClelland) Dale: 1. Agnes Clementina, deceased; married Rev. Robert P. Gibson, of Croton Falls, New York; they moved to Boulder, Colorado, where she died June 2, 1884, leaving two daughters: i. Alice, married James Locke, lives at White Plains, New York, and has two children: Agnes and William; ii. Anna Dale, married James Fugate, of Altoona, Pennsylvania. 2. Leah Jane, wife of Colonel Lewis Henry Fassett, of Franklin (see Fassett VII). 3. Samuel Gundaker, deceased. 4. Eliza Elvira, wife of Rev. Edwin Middleton, born in Wedensbury, England, son of Francis and Sarah (Bailey) Middleton, and grandson of Robert Middleton, of Wedensbury. When a boy of ten his parents with their family moved to Toronto, Ontario. Sarah Middleton died in 1872, and Francis Middleton in the early part of 1911. Edwin Middleton graduated at Hamilton College, New York, class of 1877, and the Union Theological Seminary, in New York City. His home is in Chicago, Illinois. Children: i. Anna Dale, wife of Frederick Pritchard, of Chicago; ii. Eliza Evelyn, wife of Harry Watts, of Chicago, and has one child, Evelyn Mollie Watts; iii. Samuel, resides with his parents. 5. Anna Margaret, wife of Thomas Alexander, son of Benjamin and Jane (Hinckley) Alexander, of Franklin, grandson of James and Nancy (Armitage) Alexander, of Mifflin county, Pennsylvania. Nancy Armitage Alexander was born 1771, died 1840, daughter of Captain Caleb Armitage, a revolutionary soldier, one of the early residents of Huntington, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander have one child, Agnes. 6. William Walter, attorney-at-law, Denver, Colorado; married and has one daughter, Marion Beatrice.

The coat-of-arms (never used in this country) is an arm embowed, holding a sword in bend; the crest, a sheaf.

George McClelland, born in 1780, died February 18, 1834. He came to America and lived at first in Ligonier Valley, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, coming to Venango

county in 1803. The family were originally from Scotland, and were famous in the disturbances of the Black Douglas. After the destruction of Douglas Castle, in which McClelland took an active part, that branch of the family changed the coat-of-arms from a dexter arm embossed fesseways, holding in the hand a sword in pale, the point enfield with a Saracens head, to a culverin. George McClelland was one of the pioneers of the town, held a number of public offices, and was a leading man in political affairs. He was one of the projectors of the *Venango Herald*, a Democratic paper, served as county commissioner, county treasurer, county auditor, etc. It was during his treasurership that the first sale of unseated lands for taxes took place, in 1814. He built and operated a blast furnace at Sandy creek, on the Pittsburgh road, one of the first in the county.

He married Agnes Seaton. Children: 1. Jane, wife of Dr. Nathaniel D. Snowden. 2. Margaret, married Hon. Arnold Plumer. 3. John, born September 6, 1807, died February 19, 1847; married Eleanor Purviance, and lived in Butler. 4. Joseph, born March, 1809, died September 5, 1899. 5. Nancy, born in 1811, died in 1882; married John Bredin, of Butler county, Pennsylvania, judge of courts. 6. Eliza, born November 19, 1816, died June 4, 1901; wife of Samuel Futhey Dale. 7. George Grogan, born November 28, 1819, died October 26, 1888; soldier in Mexican war.