

DARLING, PAUL, was born in Smethport, McKean county, Pa., November 5, 1823, and was the second son of Dr. George Darling and ——— Darling, *née* Canan. His mother died when he was quite young, leaving two other children, Dr. Jedediah Darling and Charlotta, married to Dr. J. Y. McCoy, of Smethport. His brother has been dead for a number of years, but Mrs. McCoy, now well advanced in years, yet resides at Smethport.

In 1834 Dr. Darling came to Brookville and engaged in the practice of medicine, where he soon afterwards married Miss Julia Clark, daughter of Elijah Clark, of Knox township, and about the year 1837 his son Paul joined him. Though but a boy in years when he came to Brookville, he was obliged to make his own living, and supported himself by teaching school. His first "teacher's certificate," which he had preserved among his papers, read as follows :

"We, the undersigned School Directors of Pine Creek Township, do hereby certify that we have examined Paul Darling, and have found him qualified to teach Reading, Writing & Arithmetick and the principal rules of Grammar & Geography.

"Signed,

JAMES MOORE,

"ARCH<sup>d</sup>. McMURRAY,

"JOHN LONG,

"GEORGE S. MATHEWS."

He afterwards entered the store of the late Thomas K. Litch as a clerk, and by his aptness at learning the business and careful attention to his duties, he soon won the commendation of his employer, and after a few years was made general manager of his extensive lumber business, and Mr. Litch was ever one of his warmest personal friends. He was extremely frugal and saving in his habits, and as soon as he had accumulated a little money he embarked it in the lumber trade and soon gained quite a competency, which, by judicious investments in western timber lands, he augmented to a large fortune, being worth \$500,000 at the time of his death. Mr. Darling was one of the founders of the Jefferson County National Bank, of which institution he was vice-president at the time of his death.

He took care of his father and step-mother in their later years, both of whom preceded him to the grave, and after the marriage of his half-sister, Mary, to W. H. Gray, of Brookville, he made her house his home, where he died, after a painful illness of several weeks' duration, November 4, 1881, passing quietly from earth just one day before his fifty-eighth birthday dawned.

Paul Darling was a man whose word was as good as his bond, and his strict regard to truth in all matters, whether large or small, was one of his characteristics. He was a shrewd, careful business man, and a sociable, companionable friend. He was well read, and his well-balanced mind retained what he culled here and there from the best authors. While busy in accumulating his large fortune Paul Darling was not accounted among the benevolent ones of the earth, but when brought face to face with death he dwelt much upon that portion of the Lord's Prayer which says, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors," and in his will, one of the most remarkable on record, which is given below, he released his debtors from the payment of judgments and securities he held against them.

Paul Darling made the most of his fortune in Jefferson county, and to the people of the town and county that for so long was his home he left the bulk of it, and the monument he erected when he made these bequests will never be obliterated as long as one of those from whom he lifted the burden of debt survives, or as long as the beautiful Methodist Church, or the elegant Presbyterian parsonage, both largely erected by his bounty, or the soldiers' monument, remain. The children of the public schools of Brookville, too, as they are surrounded and refined by the beauties his thoughtfulness has lavished about them, will revere and bless his memory.

## PAUL DARLING'S WILL.

The following bequests were made by Paul Darling, as found in his will, which was admitted to probate November 1, 1881: "To W. H. Gray and Mary Gray, his wife, my bank stock and interest in the Jefferson County National Bank, about \$30,000; to Paul Darling Robinson, Paul Darling Wright, Paul Darling Hamlin, and Paul Darling Scofield, my namesakes, each \$200; to Edward Scofield \$3,000; to R. G. Wright, Henry Hamlin, Byron D. Hamlin, Thomas K. Litch, Dr. W. Y. McCoy, Mrs. Charlotta McCoy, Delano C. Hamlin and Geneva, wife of Delano C. Hamlin, Mollie Forrest, each \$100; to Dr. Henry L. McCoy \$200, and to his wife \$100; to Ellen, daughter of Charlotta McCoy, Ed. McCoy and Frank, his wife, Mrs. Lotta Hamlin and to her children, Willie, Orlo, Aline and Mary, each \$100; to Emma Hamlin and Mrs. Lena Rose, each \$100; to Harry C. Litch \$100; to Mrs. Blanch Litch \$25; to E. A. Litch \$100, and Allie, his wife, \$25; to Mrs. Thomas K. Litch, Anna Henderson, daughter of Thomas K. Litch, C. B. Clark, Amelia Clark, Maggie Clark, Mattie Gephart, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Darrah and Mary A. Corbett, each \$100; to Dr. J. E. Hall and C. R. Hall, each \$50; to Mr and Mrs. Joseph Henderson, each \$25; to Joseph B. Henderson \$100; to Mrs. Joseph B. Henderson \$25, and to each of her children \$5; to Charles Corbett \$50; to Thomas E. Espy and Thomas M. Carroll, each \$100; to W. D. J. Marlin \$50; to Dr. Henry L. McCoy, in trust for Geneva Bard, \$500; to Mrs. John T. Reed \$1,200; to Mrs. Emma Kimble \$1,300; to Mrs. Skillen, sister of Mrs. Kimball, \$1,300; to J. B. Henderson, in trust for Mrs. Martha Hall, judgment against Enoch Hall; to John Guyther and D. A. Henderson, two-thirds of about \$2,000; to N. G. Edelblute \$3,280; to H. F. Burris one-third of balance of article of agreement; to Robert and Mary H. Stewart, life interest in property in which they now live; to S. M. Tinthoff, judgment against him; to Benewell Kroh, judgment against him; to I. J. Yaney, judgment against him; to Thomas Stewart, judgment against him; to George M. and Theodore Irvin, judgment against them; to S. H. Croyl and William Kennedy, judgment against them; to William Walters, what he owes me; to T. B. McLain and Coleman, judgment against them; to Con Fink, judgment against him; to A. J. Davis, judgment against him; to M. R. Reynolds and E. A. McClelland, judgment against them; to Joseph Darr, judgment against him; to Dennis, Silas and Alma Bevier, one-half of judgment against them; to Samuel Yount, judgment against him; to A. J. Brady, interest on judgment and note for \$125; to Silas Miller, what he owes me; to Sheridan McCullough, what he owes me; to Mrs. Mary McLain, privilege to purchase lot for \$700; to James Chambers and Martha Chambers, farm in Rose township, Jefferson county; to Samuel Chambers and sister, farm in Redbank township, Clarion county; to P. Ford and wife, \$50 each; to Hon. G. A. Jenks, the sum of \$25, because I am proud of him as a Jefferson county production, and like him as a man; to Hon. I. G. Gordon, \$25 on account of long friendship; to Hon. W. P. Jenks, whom I have known so long—when we were not worth \$200—but we have both since dug along—\$25; to George Zetler, senior and junior, judgment they owe me; for a soldiers' monument in Brookville Cemetery \$2,000; for a monument to myself \$2,000; to the school district of Smethport, McKean county, Pa., \$15,000 to aid in the erection of a school building, if erected within two years: to help them in business, to J. N. Garrison, John J. Thompson and Joseph Darr, each \$5,000; to E. and B. Reitz \$2,000; to lift him out, I give to James A. Cathers \$5,000; to James M. Canning \$2,000; to Carroll and Espy \$2,000, in addition to amount mentioned above; to D. F. Hibbard \$1,000; to

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S. S. Jackson \$2,000 ; to David Eason \$2,000 ; to H. Brady Craig \$1,000 ; for beautifying and improving the grounds of the public schools of the borough of Brookville, \$3,000 a year for twelve years ; to the erection of a Methodist Church in the borough of Brookville, when erected \$3,000 ; for the benefit of the poor in the borough of Brookville and Rose township, \$2,000 a year for nine years, to be divided each year in proportion of paupers in each district ; to A. J. Brady, judgment against him ; to E. H. and W. R. Darrah and the Moore boys, judgment against them ; to W. J. McKnight and T. L. Templeton, judgment against them for \$2,000 and note for \$3,000 ; to T. P. McCrea, note for \$325 ; to Brookville Cemetery Company, the interest on \$1,000 annually and perpetually, to be expended in keeping my lot and tomb in order ; to E. Clark Hall \$50 ; to F. X. Kreidler \$50 ; to A. L. Gordon \$25 ; to William Dickey \$25 ; to Uriah Matson, Robert Matson and Harry Matson, each \$10 ; to John C. Hamlin \$5,000 ; to Willie Orlo Hamlin, in addition to foregoing, \$5,000 ; to the Presbyterian Church of Brookville \$2,000 ; to the U. P. Methodist, Baptist and Lutheran Churches, each \$1,000. After the above bequests are provided for, if there should be anything remaining, I direct the following to be paid : To Edward Scofield, \$3,000 a year for nine years ; to H. C. Litch, Ed. A. Litch, J. B. Henderson and W. H. Gray, each \$1,000 a year for ten years ; and as residuary legatees, to the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches of Brookville, in the proportion of two-thirds to the Presbyterian and one-third to the Methodist Church." A. L. Gordon, esq., and J. B. Henderson are named as executors of the will.

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