

GENEALOGICAL AND
PERSONAL HISTORY
OF
FAYETTE COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

UNDER THE EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OF

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(IV) Robert Patterson, the fifth son of James and Sophia (Stewart) Patterson, was born on the farm called Enity, March 4, 1808, at Manor Cunningham. When two and a half years old his father removed to Drumonghil, where they resided until his father's death, and later the family removed to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended a day school in Manor Cunningham for a while, which was taught by a priest. He then went to school in Raphoe for six months and was later tutored by the Rev. Alexander Rentoul in company with Jack Rentoul (John, later a Presbyterian minister), the minister's son. On coming to Philadelphia work was secured for the older boys in a large white goods manufactory. Robert was put to attending a loom, at which he became very expert, and it has been his boast that he has woven many and many a yard of cloth. On coming west to Pittsburgh he met Lucinda, daughter of Benjamin Franklin and Ethalinde (Robertson) Winchell, whom he married at her sister's home in Steubenville, in March, 1837. His wife, having lost her parents, made her home with her sister and brother-in-law, Thomas and Maria (Winchell) Frey.

After his marriage Mr. Patterson rented a farm of Squire Boice at Burgettstown, Washington county, Pennsylvania. He was very successful, the business coming to him naturally. Their eldest child, Margaret, was born on the farm June 11, 1839. In the autumn of that year there was much talk of the opportunities to make money out in the territory of Iowa. He concluded to see for himself, so he sold off his farming implements, disposed of his crops and went to Dubuque, Iowa. Arriving there they were much disappointed to find the town consisted of but few houses set on a low mud flat, the country overrun with roving bands of In-

dians, with the principal business of the country lead mining. To make the best he could of the situation he opened up a general merchandising business in one side of his house, and this business he continued until the fall of 1841. In the meantime his wife and child had contracted malaria and were constantly ill with chills and fever; so tiring of this venture they came back to Steubenville, traveling down the Mississippi and up the Ohio river, giving them a long, tiresome trip. They remained in Steubenville for a short time considering an offer made to them by an uncle of his wife, William Robertson, of Stafford Court House, Virginia, who wanted them to come there and take charge of his large business, which had outgrown his own management. William Robertson, in addition to his large plantation and many slaves, was operating seven freestone quarries; the product of these quarries was sent by way of Aquia to the Potomac and thence to Alexandria and Washington, where it was used in some of the finest buildings of the two cities. They concluded to go, and found the better way was to go by boat to Parkersburg and across the country by stage and wagon. Mr. Patterson had gone to secure the tickets for the boat and his wife had left little Margaret in the care of the proprietor's daughter while she attended to some necessary things incident to their journey. When she was hastily summoned she found the little child's clothes on fire. She was terribly burned and died at 6 o'clock that evening. The mother was also badly burned in extinguishing the flames. Their journey was delayed until after the burial of the child, who was laid to rest beside her grandmother Winchell in the cemetery at Steubenville. Journeying to Stafford county, they found their uncle and aunt, who were delighted to have them, and everything went well for a short time. When Mr. Patterson suggested some improvement in the work as well as the management of the negroes his uncle did not agree with him, preferring the old rather slipshod way. This, of course, led to some hard feeling, and later Mr. Patterson concluded that he could not content himself doing work in that way. In the meantime another daughter was born to them.

Leaving Stafford, they went to Baltimore and, not finding anything to suit him in a

business way, he went on to Philadelphia to visit relatives. After a visit in his old home he concluded that they would try their fortunes in the far west again. Traveling over the National Road by way of Cumberland, they reached Uniontown and stopped at the hostelry of "Natty" Brownfield. By this time Mrs. Patterson was so tired that she insisted that he get into some business in that town and settle down. On looking about he found that he could buy out the meat market of Samuel Fisher, the agreement being that Fisher was to continue to take charge of it, and this he did until his death. At that time there were few houses that could be rented, so they had to be contented with one on the "Natty" Brownfield farm outside of the town limits, removing from there after six months to the Benjamin Brownfield house on Morgantown street, opposite the (old) Baptist church, where they resided for about six years. On March 1, 1849, they moved to the Isaac Wood farm, which they bought, and there lived until the death of Mr. Patterson, which occurred June 14, 1904, at the venerable age of ninety-six years and three months. His wife having preceded him eight years, passing away August 14, 1896, at the age of eighty-one years.

Mr. Patterson led a very busy life, and amidst his other pursuits carried on his farming most successfully. He was a strong Republican in belief, only once being known to vote the Democratic ticket, and that during the Douglass campaign against the Know-nothings. He had been most carefully trained in his youth in the Presbyterian doctrines, and although he did not unite with the church until his later years, his life was governed by his early teachings and he brought up his family in the same rigid way and taught them to be strictly truthful and honorable. It was said of him that his word was as good as his bond, as many who had business dealings with him could attest. He was also very charitable, but always in a quiet, unostentatious way, so that only those that knew him well knew of the many kindnesses he performed. He was a great student of the Bible, had a remarkable memory and was also a great reader of current literature, being well posted on all the topics of the day. During the last few years of his life he was very deaf, which was a great trial to him, for

he dearly loved to discuss the news of the day and was not slow to form opinions, which were shrewd and sound. He was for many years a member of the Scotch-Irish Society.

Robert Patterson and Lucinda, his wife, had six children: 1. Margaret, who was burned to death when about two years of age. 2. Sarah Virginia, who remained at home and ministered to her parents until their death. 3. John William, married Elmyra A. Franks; he is a farmer near Martinsburg, West Virginia; has eight children. 4. Annie Elizabeth, married Albert Darlington Boyd, a prominent attorney of Uniontown (see Boyd IV). 5. Robert Ira, married Margaretta Askew; he is a successful business man of Uniontown; has four children. 6. Alexander Hamilton, married Annie J. McCray; he is also a farmer near Martinsburg, West Virginia; they have had ten children, one of whom has passed away.
