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Representatives of Bucks County in Congress.

BY REV. D. K. TURNER, HARTSVILLE, PA.

(Doylestown Meeting, January 22, 1895).

We are all interested in the character and the qualifications of those who represent us in the Congress of the United States. They are sent to Washington to frame laws for the whole country, by which the safety and prosperity of its numerous and diversified population may be secured. They are types of the people, for whom they act, and if able, upright and patriotic, they reflect credit upon their constituents. Especially do we desire that the legislators from our own particular district should be capable of presenting and advocating such statutes, as will advance in the best manner the interests of all of our citizens.

For many years after the thirteen original colonies were planted, they were independent of each other. In 1754 a convention was held in Albany, N. Y., in which a plan of union was formed, but failed to secure the subsequent approval of both the British Government and the Colonial Assemblies. Eleven years later, in 1765, the first American Congress met in New York, composed of delegates from nine colonies, one of which was Pennsylvania, and in 1774 a second congress was held in Philadelphia with members from eleven colonies. Among these was Joseph Galloway, a native of Maryland, owning large estates in Bensalem and Durham townships. Though he practiced law in Philadelphia, his home was at Trevoise, where he owned 1,300 acres of land. He was endowed with superior intellectual ability, and chosen to high official positions, being a member and Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly and prominent in the Colonial Congress. In the first part of the struggle between the British crown and the Colonies he was favorable to the American cause, regarding the course of the Royal Government as oppressive. He gave his assent to all the measures designed to express the indignation of the people at the tyranny of the English ministry, and no one at that time stood higher in the esteem of

patriotic Americans. But he never favored breaking loose from the mother country and establishing independence, and when the war for freedom commenced he joined the royalists and remained with them in Philadelphia and New Jersey until 1778, when he went to England and there spent the rest of his life. In 1779 he was summoned before a committee of Parliament to testify and give his views on affairs in the revolted States, and spoke in terms of severe denunciation of the conduct of General Howe and other British officers.

On his departure for England, his estate this side the Atlantic, valued at £40,000, equal at the present day to more than \$200,000, was declared by Congress confiscated. Subsequently, however, as it came into his possession through his wife, it was restored to his daughter, Elizabeth, a young lady celebrated for her beauty and accomplishments, who married an Englishman.* Joseph Galloway published a number of pamphlets and books, some of which breathed a spirit of bitter animosity against the land of his nativity. His death took place in England, August, 1803, at the age of 73 years.

Henry Wynkoop represented our county in the Colonial Congress from 1779 to 1783, and after the adoption of the Federal Constitution, in the Congress of the United States from 1789 to 1791. He was a descendant of Cornelius C. Wynkoop, who emigrated from Holland. His father, Nicholas Wynkoop, came to Northampton about 1727, and received in 1738 from his father, Gerardus Wynkoop, a deed of 260 acres of land, on which he resided for a long period. Henry Wynkoop was widely known and honored in Pennsylvania, and was a member of the "Committee of Public Safety" for this county in 1774-5-6, and a lieutenant in the army of the Revolution. He occupied the bench as Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, when it was located at Newtown, and is said to have been the personal friend of Washington and Alexander Hamilton. He was President Judge of the Courts of Bucks county, appointed in 1777 and reappointed June 8, 1784. He was also appointed a Judge of High Court of Errors and Appeals of Pennsylvania, November 20, 1780, commissioned March 28, 1783, and took the oath of office April 7, 1783. He resigned both positions June 27,

* See Vol. I, page 245.

1789, when he was elected a member of the first Congress. He was the first Associate Judge of Bucks county, commissioned August 17, 1791. He died March 25, 1816, in his 80th year.*

John Pugh represented this district in Congress from 1805 to 1809. He was the grandson of Hugh Pugh, who emigrated from Wales about 1725 and settled in Chester county. Subsequently he removed to the vicinity of Norristown, where his son Daniel was born, who at length settled in Hilltown, Bucks county, and married the daughter of Rev. William Thomas, the Baptist clergyman of that place. Daniel was the father of John, who became distinguished in politics and social life, bore a shining reputation, and wielded a strong influence in the region where he lived. His fellow citizens manifested great confidence in his wisdom and integrity, as they elected him to the Legislature in 1800 and re-elected him three times. Two terms in Congress also indicated that he was held in high esteem by the people. In 1810 the Governor of the State appointed him register-of-wills and recorder-of-deeds of the county, the duties of which offices, then in charge of the same person, he faithfully and efficiently discharged for fourteen years. One of his children was John B. Pugh, Esq., for many years justice of the peace in Doylestown and a citizen of high standing. Probably no one in this county ever appended his name, as magistrate, to legal documents more frequently, or was trusted more fully, than Esquire John B. Pugh. His wife was the daughter of Hon. John Fox, President Judge of the courts of this county. A daughter of John Pugh, the member of Congress, became the wife of General William T. Rogers, of Doylestown, who was a member of the State Senate several terms and at one time president of that body. John Pugh died 1842.

The next member of the National House of Representatives from Bucks county was William Rodman, Jr., occupying that position from 1811 to 1813. He was the son of William Rodman, Sr., who was a prominent citizen and held many offices of public trust, among others being a member of the State Legislature several years. William Rodman, Jr., was even more distinguish-

* For further account of the life and public services of Judge Wynkoop see "The Wynkoop Family" by Capt. William Wynkoop, and "Judge Henry Wynkoop" by John S. Wurts, Vol. 3 of these papers.

ed than his father. He was born in Bensalem, October 7, 1757, and though in his minority when the Revolutionary struggle commenced, he took an active part in the war and served in the militia under General Lacey. A justice of the peace many years, in the Legislature a long time, and a member of the Senate of Pennsylvania, he was sent to Congress in 1811, serving one term. In 1791 during the administration of Washington, Congress placed an excise tax upon whiskey, which aroused great opposition in the western part of Pennsylvania, where large quantities of distilled liquor were manufactured. This hostility was even carried to such an extent as to reach defiance of the National government. By direction of the President, Mr. Rodman raised a company of soldiers which, together with other troops, soon had the effect of quieting the disturbance. A niece of William Rodman married Judge John Fox, of Doylestown.

Mr. Rodman was succeeded in Congress by Samuel D. Ingham, who was perhaps more widely known throughout the country, at that time, than any other of our citizens. He was elected to Congress in 1812, 1814, and 1816, and again in 1822, 1824, 1826 and 1828.*

On the resignation of Mr. Ingham from Congress the first time in 1818, Dr. Samuel Moore was chosen to fill the vacancy. He was born in Cumberland county, N. J., studied medicine, received the degree of M. D., and married the daughter of Dr. Robert Patterson, the first director of the U. S. Mint in Philadelphia. In his early manhood he located as a practitioner in the village of Dublin, in Bedminster, but soon removed to Trenton. His health being impaired, he relinquished his profession and engaged in trading, making occasional voyages to the West Indies. In 1808 he purchased the grist and oil-mills at Bridge Point, where he erected a saw-mill, store and school-house and several dwellings, and a handsome residence for himself on an elevated site, now owned by Aaron Fries. He was an enterprising, energetic man, and one of the most prominent in the building of the first Presbyterian church in Doylestown, towards which he gave \$200, a large sum for that day. After completing in Congress the unexpired term of Mr. Ingham, he was twice

* For full and complete account of the life and public services of Mr. Ingham, see Vol. I of Bucks County Historical Society papers, pp. 450 to 459.

re-elected, being in the 15th, 16th and 17th Congresses. In 1824 he was appointed Director of the Mint to succeed his father-in-law, Dr. Patterson. At a good old age he died in 1861 at Doylestown.

When Mr. Ingham became Secretary of the Treasury in 1829, Samuel A. Smith was chosen to fill his place in Congress and continued in office till 1833. He was born in Nockamixon township, associated with the Democratic party and resided in Doylestown, where he carried on the mercantile business many years on Main street below Lenape hall. He removed to Point Pleasant, where he died and his remains were interred in the graveyard of the Presbyterian church at Doylestown, with which religious organization he had been long connected. He was a man of fine physical appearance and was often marshal of processions on public occasions. His father, James Smith, lived on the Durham road above the Harrow tavern.

He was followed by Robert Ramsey, of Warwick, who was born in Warminster, February 14, 1780, received a good English education and occupied a high place in the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens. He took an active interest in the politics of the county, was a member of the legislature five years, 1825-26-27, 29-31, and in Congress two terms, from 1833 to 1835 and from 1841 to 1843. Endowed with sound judgment and clear discernment he performed acceptably the duties of every office to which he was chosen. While in Washington he was intimately acquainted with John Quincy Adams, and a warm admirer and friend of that distinguished statesman. A regular attendant on religious services, he was a liberal supporter of the gospel and for many years a trustee of Neshaminy church. He died of paralysis, December 12, 1849, in the 70th year of his age.

The next member of the National House of Representatives from this district was Matthias Morris, who was born in Hilltown in 1787. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in Newtown in 1809. When the county-seat was transferred to Doylestown, he accompanied it and for a time resided in this borough, but subsequently practiced law in Philadelphia till 1839, when he was appointed by Governor Heister deputy attorney general for Bucks county and returned to Doylestown, which place was his

home for the remainder of his life. When Philadelphia was threatened by the British in 1814 he joined the forces of defence encamped at Marcus Hook. In 1828 he was elected to the State Senate and in 1835 to Congress by a majority of 706. In 1837 he was chosen again over his competitor, Judge John Ruckman. In 1829 he married a daughter of Abraham Chapman. His death took place in Doylestown, November 6, 1839.

In the Congressional election of 1838 the candidates were Matthias Morris, of the Whig party, and John Davis, of the Democratic. Davis was successful, having received a majority of 424 over his opponent. He served but one term (1839-41), having been renominated and failed of election on two subsequent occasions. He was the father of Gen. W. W. H. Davis.*

In 1842 Michael H. Jenks, of Newtown, was elected to Congress by a majority of 640 votes over his competitor, General Davis. Mr. Jenks was born in Middletown township in 1795, was trained in farming and milling, but in middle life devoted himself to conveyancing and dealing in real estate. For a long time justice of the peace, he was a commissioner and treasurer of the county, and associate judge from 1838 to 1843. He was in Congress one term from 1843 to 1845, allied to the Whig party. His youngest daughter became the wife of Hon. Alexander Ramsey, the first Governor of Minnesota and U. S. Senator from the State. After a life of honorable usefulness Mr. Jenks died in Newtown October 16, 1867, aged 72 years.

Our county was represented in Congress from 1845 to 1847 by Jacob Erdman, who died at Coopersburg, July 20, 1867. He was born February 22, 1800, in Upper Saucon township, Lehigh, then Northampton county, his birthplace being a farm, on which his father was born, and his grandfather and great-grandfather had lived. It had been in the possession of the family at least as far back as 1750, and is still in the hands of their descendants. He was a representative in the State Legislature in 1834, 1836 and 1837, and elected associate judge of the courts of Lehigh county in 1866, which position he occupied at the time of his death. Two of his daughters, Mrs. Henry S. Cope and Anna Maria Erdman reside in Bucks county, near Sellersville. His

* For full sketch of the life of Gen. John Davis, see Vol. I of these papers, pages 182 to 195.

grandson, Hon. Constantine J. Erdman, now (1895) represents in Congress the district of which Lehigh county forms a part.

Hon. Jacob Erdman was succeeded in 1848 by Hon. Samuel A. Bridges, who was in Congress first in 1848 and '49, and a second time from 1853 to '55, when as a Democrat he defeated Caleb N. Taylor, the Whig candidate. Mr. Bridges was born in Colchester, Conn., in 1802, and graduated at Williams College, Mass., in 1826. In that year he removed to Easton, Pa., and studied law with Hon. James Madison Porter & R. M. Brooke. He commenced practice in Doylestown, but in 1830 removed to Allentown, which was subsequently his home, and where he gained a high reputation as an able advocate at the bar and a learned counselor. After being there about ten years, at the opening of a term of court, he received a telegram announcing the death of a member of his family. The judge, being asked to continue his cases, looked over the docket and found Mr. Bridges' name connected with every case, whereupon the court adjourned. In 1876 he was elected to Congress the third time, to represent the tenth district, composed of the upper portion of Bucks, Lehigh and Northampton counties. It has been said of him, by one who knew him well, that he was conscientiously upright in all his course. As a lawyer he would never take a fee that he did not think he justly earned. Liberal to the poor and generous in contributions to every good cause, he was greatly esteemed by all and deeply loved by those who knew him most intimately. A cultivated gentleman, he was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church and always in his pew on the Sabbath. In 1876 he received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Williams College, his alma mater. His death took place in Allentown in 1884, when he was 82 years old.

After the first term of Mr. Bridges, Thomas Ross, of Doylestown, was elected in 1848, over Caleb N. Taylor, by 321 majority, to represent the district at the National Capital. He was born and spent his boyhood in Doylestown, being the son of Hon. John Ross, judge of the courts of this county and of the Supreme Court of the State. Educated at Princeton College, he graduated in 1825, pursued the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1829; he soon rose to a commanding position in his profession,

securing a large clientage and wide influence. At the expiration of one term in Congress he was re-elected over Caleb N. Taylor by 240 majority.

He was an eloquent public speaker, an earnest advocate of the principles, and a consistent adherent to the fortunes of the Democratic party. One of his sons was Hon. Henry P. Ross, for many years judge of the courts of Bucks and Montgomery counties. Another was Hon. George Ross, a lawyer at the head of the bar of Bucks county, and member of the Senate of Pennsylvania. Hon. Thomas Ross died July 1, 1865, after Mr. Bridges' second term.

Dr. Samuel C. Bradshaw was elected to Congress by the Whigs by a majority of 345 votes. Dr. Bradshaw was born in Plumstead in June, 1809, graduated at the Pennsylvania Medical College, Philadelphia, and practiced medicine in Haycock township five or six years; then with Dr. Carey at Quakertown thirty years, and alone ten years more. He represented this Congressional district from 1855 to 1857. He died in the house now occupied by Dr. Wm. H. Meredith in Quakertown, June, 1892, and was interred in the Friends' burying-ground of that place.

In the next Congressional election, 1856, Dr. Bradshaw was defeated by Henry Chapman by 1,532 votes, a much larger majority than usual. Judge Chapman was born in Doylestown, January 16, 1805, and studied law with his father, Abraham Chapman, Esq., an eminent legal advocate, and for a long period regarded as the "father of the Bucks county Bar." His son, Henry, was admitted to practice in 1826, and soon manifested unusual ability in his profession and acquired wide distinction. Without ambitiously seeking political honors he was chosen a member of the State Senate in 1843. About 1847 he was appointed President Judge of the Chester and Delaware judicial districts, and sat upon the bench until the expiration of the term in 1851, when he declined the nomination. In 1861 he was chosen Presiding Judge of the courts of Bucks county, and continued in office the full period of ten years, when he declined re-election. He possessed great dignity of character and manners, and never stooped to an unworthy act in official or private life. His integrity was never questioned and his decisions were rarely

if ever reversed. The members of the bar respected, loved and feared him. The closing years of his long life were spent in the enjoyments of "otium cum dignitate" on a beautiful estate a short distance north of Doylestown, where he passed away, April 11, 1891.

Judge Chapman was followed in Congress by Henry C. Longnecker who was born in 1825, and graduated at the Military Academy, Norwick, Vermont, and at Lafayette College, Easton. He served in the Mexican War, as a lieutenant, and was wounded at the battle of Chapultepec. Sent to Congress in 1859, he remained in Washington one term; in 1861 joined the Union Army; as colonel of the 9th Pennsylvania Infantry, commanded a brigade in West Virginia and in like capacity a similar body of troops at the important battle of Antietam. At the close of the Civil War he laid down the sword and returned to the practice of the law in Allentown, and was chosen Associate Judge of Lehigh county, in 1867. An able lawyer and judge, a gallant military officer, he died at Allentown, September 16, 1871.

In the Congressional election of 1860 Dr. Thomas B. Cooper was successful over his opponent, Mr. Longnecker. He was born in Cooperstown, Lehigh county, December 29, 1823, was educated at Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, and at the Medical College of the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1843. He practiced in his profession many years in Cooperstown, at which place he died April 4, 1862, during the second session of the 37th Congress.

On the death of Mr. Cooper, Hon. John D. Stiles was elected to the vacant seat, and took the oath of office June 3, 1862. He served with fidelity and was appointed on the committee of the House on Revolutionary Claims. He was born January 15, 1823, and admitted to the bar in 1844. He was a delegate to the convention which nominated James Buchanan for the Presidency in 1856, also to the Chicago convention of 1864, the convention of 1866, and the Philadelphia convention of 1868. He was re-elected to the 38th Congress, 1863-4, over Judge Krause, but did not at that time represent this district, a change having taken place in the geographical limits of the district, by which the northern part of Philadelphia, Montgomery and Bucks counties were united.

Hon. M. Russell Thayer was elected to Congress for two terms, from 1863 to 1867. He was born in Petersburg, Va., Jan., 27, 1819, graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1840, was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia in 1842. In the 38th Congress he was chairman of the committee on Land Claims, and in the 39th Congress chairman of the same committee and of the one on the Bankrupt Law. He was subsequently elected one of the Judges of the District Courts of Philadelphia, and has acted in that capacity many years. He has published several valuable papers on politics, law and literature, and is a man of legal learning and literary culture, and an able and upright Judge.

Hon. Caleb N. Taylor was elected to the 40th Congress in 1866 and served during 1867 and 1868. He was born July 27, 1813, at Sunbury farm, Bristol township, where he passed most of his life. Interested deeply in agriculture, being a large land owner, he did not confine himself to that branch of industry, but engaged in politics and banking and was for a long period president of the Bristol bank. He was a delegate to the first Republican convention in Chicago, and several times a Presidential elector. In Congress he was on the Committee on Territories and Expenses in the Treasury Department. An ardent and influential politician, for years he exercised a powerful control over the elections and appointments of the Whig and Republican parties in the lower section of the county.

Dr. John R. Reading followed Mr. Taylor in the 41st Congress, in the years 1869 and 1870*. He was born in Philadelphia county, November 1, 1826, and graduated at the Jefferson Medical College. After receiving the degree of M. D., he successfully pursued his profession at Somerton, one of the northern suburbs of Philadelphia, where he built up a large and lucrative practice. Connected with the Methodist church he showed unusual

* This statement is misleading. In the election of 1868 the face of the returns indicated a majority for Dr. John R. Reading. Mr. Taylor, however, successfully contested the election, proving that many illegal votes had been cast against him, particularly in Durham and Bensalem townships. The illegal votes in Durham township resulted in the arrest and imprisonment of a number of foreigners who had voted on fraudulent naturalization papers, purported to have been issued out of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in September, 1868. On April 13, 1870, the House of Representatives, by a vote of 145 yeas to 45 nays (67 not voting), decided that Dr. Reading was not entitled to his seat; and on the same day, without a division, the House voted that Mr. Taylor was entitled to a seat from the fifth district of Pennsylvania. The second session continued until July 15, 1870; the third session assembled on the first Monday of December, 1870, and the Congress adjourned March 4, 1871. Dr. Reading served as Congressman 1 year, 1 month and 9 days, when Mr. Taylor took his seat for the remaining portion of the forty-first Congress.

ability as an exhorter and class leader, and was licensed as a local preacher, in which capacity he often supplied pulpits and conducted religious meetings.

In 1870 Hon. Alfred C. Harmer was the successful candidate for congressional honors. Born in Germantown August 8, 1825, he commenced business as a shoe manufacturer and was afterwards a wholesale dealer in shoes. From 1856 to 1860 he was a member of the city councils of Philadelphia and then elected recorder-of-deeds, which important office he held three years. He was chosen a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago; he represented Bucks and Montgomery counties and a part of Philadelphia in the 42d and 43d Congresses from 1871 to 1875, in which he was chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia and a member of the Committee on Weights and Measures.

After serving the district of which Bucks county was a part, four years, the Congressional districts were changed, and Harmer was elected to nine succeeding Congresses for the fifth district in which he resides, and is still (1895) representing that district.

In the fall of 1874 Hon. Alan Wood, Jr., of Conshohocken, was elected to the 44th Congress, for the years 1875-76. He was an extensive iron manufacturer, and well acquainted with the details and wants of that important industry. He was born in Philadelphia July 6, 1834, located in business at Conshohocken in 1857, having previously built the sheet and plate iron rolling-mills at that place, owned and operated by the firm of Alan Wood & Co. While in Congress he was on the Committee of Public Buildings, the House having a majority of Democratic members, with Hon. Mr. Kerr, Speaker, who died a few months after his elevation to the chair, and was succeeded by Hon. Samuel J. Randall. Many important and exciting events occurred, among which was the election to the Presidency of the United States of Mr. Hayes by the electoral commission, to follow General Grant. In the House were Mr. Blaine, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Garfield, General Benjamin Butler, General Banks, Mr. Hill, of Georgia, Judge Kelly and other distinguished National characters.

In the autumn of 1876 Hon. Alan Wood, Jr., declined a re-

nomination, and Dr. I. N. Evans, Republican, of Hatboro, Montgomery county, was elected to the forty-fifth Congress by 1,518 majority over Abel Rambo, Democrat. At the completion of this term, the years 1877-78, by the rules of the party the candidate for Congress was to be taken for four years from Bucks county, and Montgomery county was not entitled to the office again until 1882, when Dr. Evans was nominated by the convention over a number of rivals and elected to the 48th Congress, for the years 1883-4. In the fall of 1884 he was elected a third time and served in the 49th Congress, for 1885-86. In the 45th Congress he made a speech on the tariff, which was highly approved by those whose opinions agreed with his, and which was translated by a Baptist minister into the Welsh language and circulated extensively in the region of Pittsburg and Allegheny. Another speech of his before Congress was on "The Retirement and Recoinage of the Trade Dollar," in the redemption of which he was much interested, and the success of that just measure was largely due to his efforts. His speech on "The Suspension of the Silver Coinage" was received very favorably by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Director of the Mint. The New York *Herald* and New York *Tribune* printed a considerable part of it with favorable comments. In the 48th Congress he spoke on the following topics: "The Tariff," "The National Board of Health," "Inter-State Commerce," and "Oleomargarine." Dr. Evans was born in Pennsylvania, in 1827; studied medicine, and graduated at the medical department of Bowdoin College, Maine, 1851, and at Jefferson College, Philadelphia, 1852. He is a member of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society and of the American Medical Association. For many years he had a large medical practice at Johnsville, Bucks county, and at Hatboro, but subsequently devoted himself principally to banking and the purchase and exchange of real estate, in which he is now engaged. He is now (1895) president of the Hatboro National Bank.

After Dr. Evans' first term Hon. William Godshalk, of New Britain, was chosen to represent the district in the 46th Congress, 1879-80, by a majority of 1,338 votes, and the 47th Con-

gress, 1881-82, by 1,864 majority. He was born in October, 1817; received a good education in his youth, and became interested in politics in early manhood. In 1848 he was nominated county treasurer and in 1864 for the State Senate. In September, 1862, he joined the company of Captain George Hart, of Doylestown, who went at the call of the Government for troops to act against the Southern Confederacy, and was at Hagerstown, Md., at the time of the battle of Antietam. In 1871 he was elected associate judge of the courts of Bucks county and served on the bench with fidelity and usefulness five years. At the expiration of the four years of his duty in Congress, the nomination of a candidate belonged to Montgomery county, and he retired to his farm and mill, which he conducted with prosperity and success. He was twice married and the father of five children. After an honored life he died February 6, 1891, in the 75th year of his age.

At the conclusion of Dr. Evans' third term it was due to Bucks county to select a candidate for the House of Representatives in Washington, and Hon. Robert M. Yardley was chosen by the Republican party and was elected by the people to the 50th Congress, 1887 and 1888, by 2,135 majority over Edwin Satterthwaite, Democrat, and was re-elected for the 51st Congress, 1889-1890, serving four years. Mr. Yardley was born in Yardley, Pa., October 9, 1850, and is of English descent, his ancestors having resided in the county 150 years. He was employed in his younger days with his father in the coal and lumber business; but having received a good education, he studied law with his brother, Mahlon Yardley, Esq. In 1872 he was admitted to the bar of Bucks county, and commenced practice in Doylestown, where large success has attended him. In 1879 he was elected District Attorney, and in 1884 a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago. He is one of the directors of the Bucks County Trust Company, and is a widely known and highly respected citizen. When the Keystone National Bank failed in Philadelphia he was appointed by the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, Receiver, and satisfactorily carried through the investigation of its complex affairs.

In 1890 Hon. Edwin Hallowell, of Moreland, Montgomery county, was elected to the 52nd Congress over Irving P. Wanger, Esq., of Norristown, Republican, and served with fidelity to the interests of his constituents two years, 1891 and 1892.

In 1892 Hon. Irving P. Wanger was elected to the 53rd Congress, 1893-94, over his competitor, Mr. Hallowell, and was re-elected to the 54th Congress for the years 1895-96, over Dr. John Todd, and is now the efficient and eloquent representative of the 7th district, to which this county belongs.

Hon. I. P. Wanger was born in North Coventry, Chester county, Pa., March 5, 1852; commenced the study of law at Norristown in 1872, and was admitted to the bar in 1875; was elected burgess of Norristown in 1878; was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1880; was elected District Attorney of Montgomery county in 1880 and again in 1886. In the first session of this Congress he made a speech in favor of the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman Act. In the second session he spoke several times on the tariff bill, when it was under consideration in committee of the whole. He also spoke in opposition to the reduction of appropriations for the education of the Indian children, and several times briefly on incidental matters.

Of the 28 members of Congress, of whom I have given brief notices, 11 were farmers, or farmers and millers at the same time, 10 lawyers, 4 physicians, 2 manufacturers, and 1 a merchant. No single occupation claimed them all or even a majority of them. They were all honest, upright and intelligent, seeking the good of the country rather than their own selfish ends, and some of them were able defenders of the interests committed to their charge. Our country has reason to be proud of its representatives during its long history since the adoption of the present form of government. Compared with the majority of the members of the lower house at Washington, they have stood high; they have been worthy of their position, and some have attained an enviable degree of eminence. For many years our county was united with other counties in districts that sent to Congress more than one member at the same time, and it has been deemed desirable to gather the facts

attainable in reference to all those who acted for us in the National halls of legislation, though they were not residents of our county, and represented the district in conjunction with others. For some items of information that follow I am indebted to Hon. Harman Yerkes, President Judge of the courts of Bucks county, and to D. H. Neiman, Esq., of Easton, Pa.

The members of the Continental Congress from Pennsylvania previous to 1787, when the National Constitution was adopted, were elected by the State Assembly, two of whom, Joseph Gallo-way and Henry Wynkoop, were from Bucks county, and have already been spoken of. The new Constitution provided that Pennsylvania should have eight Congressmen till the next census, and in the 1st and 2d Congresses it had eight; in the sessions following it had thirteen till 1803. An act was passed by our Legislature Oct. 4, 1788, prescribing in what manner members of Congress and electors for President of the United States should be chosen, but it does not divide the State into districts, and I am informed by W. M. Gearhart, Esq., Chief Clerk of the Secretary of the Commonwealth in Harrisburg, that it is impossible in his office to find who represented Bucks county before 1803. All the members in the last century may be properly termed "Congressmen-at-Large," as they represented the whole State, strictly speaking, rather than any one portion of it.

One of the earliest representatives, who had charge of the interests of our county in Congress, was Hon. Samuel Sitgreaves. He was born in Philadelphia, received a liberal academic education, studied law and was admitted to the bar. He commenced practice in Easton, where he soon displayed eminent ability and profound learning, and was chosen a delegate to the convention in 1790, which framed a Constitution for Pennsylvania under the new system of national government. Decidedly and warmly in favor of a firm union in the States, he acted with the Federalists, and was chosen a member of the lower house of Congress, and took his seat December 7, 1795. Securing in a high degree the confidence of his constituents and an elevated place in public esteem, he was re-elected and entered again upon his duties in 1797. His reputation for mental acumen and deep reasoning became so conspicuous that he

was appointed by President John Adams in 1798 a commissioner to treat with Great Britain in regard to difficulties, which had arisen in the commercial relation of the two countries. We were accused of showing partiality for France in the war, in which she was engaged with England. The latter proud of her superiority as "mistress of the seas," endeavored to lay humiliating restrictions upon our commerce, to which our nation did not propose to submit. In the struggles of France with other European nations then in progress we desired to stand neutral, and Mr. Sitgreaves was designated as fully qualified to assist in arranging measures, by which our rights and interests would be secured. To enter upon this important duty he resigned his seat in Congress and was succeeded by General Robert Brown. After a life of distinguished honor his death took place at a ripe old age in Philadelphia, April 4, 1824.*

By Act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, of April 2, 1802, Bucks, Montgomery, Northampton and Luzerne counties were constituted one district, and were directed to elect three members of Congress till the next apportionment, which by law of the United States would be made after the succeeding census in 1810.

One of those who represented this district of four counties during the period from 1802 to 1812 was General Robert Brown. He became a member of the House before the district was constituted, being elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. Samuel Sitgreaves. He first took his seat December 4, 1798, and served by repeated re-elections to March 2, 1815, being in nine Congresses, from the 5th to the 13th inclusive, about 18 years. The territory for which he acted comprised most of eastern Pennsylvania. His services were eminently satisfactory to his constituents, so much so that his election on each occasion is said to have been unanimous, or without opposition, except once, when the Federal party set up as its candidate against him Mr. Sitgreaves, whose reputation as special envoy to England they hoped would carry great weight in his favor. Even then Gen. Brown prevailed by a large majority.

* See Henry's History of the Lehigh Valley, for portrait of Hon. Samuel Sitgreaves, page 17, for sketch of his life, *ibid.*, page 407, et. seq.

During the Revolution he was an officer in a body of troops under Washington, called the "Flying Camp." They comprised two thousand men and were among the best of the American army. After Gen. Howe had captured New York City, Washington retreated northward, but left Col. Morgan with three thousand soldiers, among whom were Robert Brown and his comrades at Fort Washington, with orders to hold it to the last. This fortification was on Manhattan Island, about eleven miles above the city. It was soon attacked by a strong force of the British, and was defended with great courage and determination. The fight continued all day. When the ammunition of the Americans was exhausted they resisted assaults with the barrels of their muskets, but at last were forced to surrender to superior numbers. The enemy lost about 1,000 men in killed and wounded, and the English commander was so incensed at the stubborn resistance he met with, that he deliberately put to death one of the colonels. The prisoners were placed in a church under guard, and for three days and nights had no food. Starvation and exhaustion were fatal to many of them, and the dead were carried away in carts by their heartless foes and dumped into pits with quicklime to hasten decomposition. Being an officer, Capt. Brown, who had learned the trade of a blacksmith in his youth, was released on parole, and working at that business in the vicinity where his men were confined, he earned money with which he bought bread which he distributed among them. This fact reported at home by survivors proved one of the elements of his long continued popularity.

Hon. Isaac VanHorne was another of the three gentlemen who represented the district during the period from 1802 to 1812. He was born in Bucks county and served as a captain in the Revolutionary War. He was coroner from 1786 to 1791 and member of the State Legislature from 1797 to 1800 inclusive, being elected four years in succession, as that body then met annually. He was chosen member of the National House of Representatives twice and served from 1801 to 1805. A conference of the different counties of the district was held at Nazareth September 25, 1804, to decide upon candidates for

congressional honors and he was made president of the meeting. In the early part of this century Ohio was in its infancy, and Mr. VanHorne was appointed by the U. S. Government to act as receiver of public money derived from the sale of lands and excise duties at Zanesville, which was the capital of the State from 1810 to 1812, and it may have been during that time that he was a resident of the place in the service of the Union.

Another of the members of Congress in the early part of this century from the district, in which Bucks county was included, was Hon. John Ross. He was the grandson of Thomas Ross, who was born in county Tyrone, in the north of Ireland, in 1708, and immigrated to Upper Makefield in 1728, when he was 20 years of age, at a period, which was marked by the coming of large numbers of Scotch-Irish to Pennsylvania. Thomas Ross, the grandfather of the Judge, John Ross, is said to have been brought up in the Episcopal church; if so, he left the ecclesiastical associations of his ancestors, and in 1729 was admitted to membership in the Friends' meeting at Wrightstown, and subsequently became a noted minister in that denomination. In June, 1784, he made a visit for religious purposes in company with other Friends to England, Scotland and Ireland. During his travels he reached the home of Lindley Murray, the celebrated English grammarian, at Holdgate, near York, where overcome by the infirmities of years, he died June 13, 1786, in the 78th year of his age. He is spoken of as a man of great excellence of character and of unusual strength of mind. His grandson, John Ross, born February 29, 1770, received a good English education, and while a young man, taught school in Durham township. Here he became acquainted with Richard Backhouse, proprietor of the iron furnace, who seeing in him promise of future distinction encouraged him to study law at Easton, agreeing to lend him money for his expenses till he could support himself in his profession. He applied himself with diligence, was admitted to the bar, and soon proved a learned counsellor and an able advocate. Interested in the affairs of the nation, he was elected to the 11th Congress, which began its sessions

May 22, 1809. His term at this time continued to March 3, 1811. Being again elected without opposition, in conjunction with Samuel D. Ingham, to the 14th Congress and re-elected to the 15th, his second period in Washington was from December 4, 1815, to February 24, 1818, when he resigned to accept the Judgeship of the Seventh Judicial District, consisting of the counties of Bucks, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware, with two associate judges. This position of influence and responsibility he held 12 years, till April 9, 1830, when he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. His tenure of this high office, however, was only four years, as he was removed by death in 1834, aged 64 years. He had purchased some time previously a considerable tract of land in a secluded section of Monroe county, on which he had set apart a family burying-ground, and there his remains were deposited in their final resting place.* In person Judge Ross was tall, erect and muscular. His manners were dignified, inclining to austerity, and in some respects he seemed eccentric. At one time he displayed a taste for spotted or calico horses, which were then rarely seen, and with a span of them attached to his large heavy carriage, as he rode to and fro between Doylestown and Philadelphia, he was the object of interest and respectful curiosity to all observers. Among his descendants were his son, Hon. Thomas Ross, and his grandsons, Judge Henry P. Ross of Norristown, and Hon. George Ross, of Doylestown.

Another of the gentlemen associated in the representation of the district comprising our county between 1802 and 1812 was Hon. Frederick Conrad. He was born in Worcester township, Montgomery county, where he resided most of his life. Of German extraction, his father or grandfather crossed the ocean to find liberty and prosperity in this home of the free. His first wife was Catherine Schneider, by whom he had seven children, one of whom was the mother of Judge Hoover, of Norristown. His education was received principally in the common school, that intellectual nursery of many distinguished men, but reading and study developed a naturally strong mind,

* The burial place referred to is at Ross Commons, which was named for Judge Ross.

and early in life he stood high among his fellow citizens for sterling sense and extensive information, and in 1789, he was elected to the lower house of the State Assembly, was re-elected the two following years, serving three terms. In 1804 and 1805, he was paymaster of the 51st Regiment of the Penna. militia.

In 1803 having been elected as a Federalist he took his seat in Congress, was re-elected in 1805, holding the position till December 3, 1807. His nomination the second time took place at a meeting of conferees at Nazareth, September 25, 1804, when Hon. Isaac VanHorne presided. In his congressional career his coadjutors were John Pugh, of Bucks, and Judge John Ross, of Northampton county. In 1809, when Nathaniel B. Boileau, of Hatboro was appointed Secretary of the Commonwealth by Gov. Snyder, his seat in the Legislature became vacant, and Mr. Conrad was nominated by the Federal party to fill his place, but was defeated by Richard T. Leech, Republican. In 1807 he was appointed by Governor McKean Justice of the Peace, and probably continued a magistrate as long as he lived, for at that period the office was held during good behavior. In February, 1821, he received from Governor Hiester the appointment of prothonotary and clerk of the courts of Montgomery county, and was reappointed by Governor Shultz in 1824, performing the duties of the post faithfully six years.

Mr. Conrad's home and farm were at Centre Point, on the Skip-pack road, about four miles northeast of Norristown, to which borough he removed late in life. Being a Justice of the Peace he wrote many deeds and mortgages and joined many couples in marriage. In person he was of medium height, stoutly built, and inclined to corpulence. With a flow of animal spirit he united sprightliness in conversation and his companionship was sought by a wide circle of friends in public and private life. He died in Norristown and was buried in the graveyard of the Wentz German Reformed congregation, of which he was a member and officer.

Another of those who represented Bucks county, when it was joined with Montgomery, Northampton and Luzerne, was Hon. Thomas Jones Rogers. Born in Waterford, Ireland, in 1780, he

was brought by his parents to this country when six years old. His father settled in Philadelphia and engaged in the manufacture of glue and cow-skin whips. His son, Thomas, in early youth, learned the art of printing and having acquired some skill and experience in that, which is the preserver of all arts, he went to Washington city, and remained there several years. Subsequently he removed to Easton, Pa., where he purchased the *Delaware Democrat* and *Easton Gazette*, which he successfully conducted a long period. During this time he compiled, printed and published a work entitled, "A New American Biographical Dictionary or Remembrancer of the Departed Heroes, Sages and Statesmen of America," which was designed specially for the use of schools. This book ran through three editions, in 1813, 1823 and 1824 respectively. In the war of 1812 he was an officer in the Pennsylvania troops that marched to Marcus Hook for the defense of Philadelphia, and rose to the rank of Brigadier General, which he held a long time in the militia of this State. Judge John Ross having resigned his membership in Congress, Gen. Rogers was elected to fill his place and took his seat in the 15th Congress, March 24, 1818; re-elected to the 16th, 17th, and 18th Congresses he served until April 26, 1824, when he resigned, as he had been appointed register of wills and recorder of deeds for Northampton county, which position he occupied several years. He was one of the incorporators named in the charter of Lafayette College at Easton, and was an honored trustee of that institution from 1826 to 1832. In 1830 he returned to Philadelphia, where he was an officer of United States Customs. His death occurred in New York City, December 7, 1832, at the age of 52 years. He married Mary Winters, daughter of Christian and Mary Winters, of Easton. They had eleven children, ten of whom were born in Easton and one in Philadelphia.

One of the sons, Gen. William Findley Rogers, was also a printer, having learned the trade with his father in Easton. Early in life he removed to Buffalo, N. Y., where in after years he filled the offices of city auditor, controller and mayor. During the war with the Southern Confederacy he served his country with distinction and was afterwards appointed Major General of the Fourth Division, National Guards of the State of New York.

One of the daughters of Gen. Thomas Rogers was the wife of the late Dr. F. A. Fickhardt, of Bethlehem, Pa. Another son, also a printer, and a daughter, reside in Philadelphia.

Another gentleman, who represented this district, was Hon. Jonathan Roberts. He was born in Upper Merion township, Montgomery county, August 16, 1771. His great-grandfather, John Roberts, emigrated from North Wales to America in 1682, and settled in what is now Lower Merion township. He was a millwright and erected the third mill in the Province of Pennsylvania. Jonathan's father, also named Jonathan, in 1771 was chosen a member of the Colonial Assembly, and continued to serve in that capacity four years. The son, Jonathan, the subject of this sketch, when five years old was sent to school to Lawrence Bathurst, a nephew of Allen Lord Bathurst, one of the English nobility, and was his pupil 5 years. His teacher had received a liberal education in England, and being endowed with a strong mind made a lasting impression upon his mental habits and character. When 14 years of age he came under the tuition of a Mr. Farris, at the "Gulph." While under his instruction he was directed to commit to memory and declaim Addison's "Soliloquy of Cato." This he refused to do, because he thought it wrong to learn and repeat the sentiments of a man who had intentionally killed himself. He did not then understand that Addison designed not to commend the views of the ancient Romans, but to put into his mouth those of a heathen philosopher. When about 17 years of age he was indentured to learn the trade of a wheelwright, and passed through a full apprenticeship of three years. During this time he sought the society of intelligent and cultivated people in his vicinity with a desire for personal improvement. Speaking of this period, when he was an old man he said, "I was engaged in my work sometimes from earliest dawn to latest twilight. Work absorbed every thought and feeling. I have felt at times a like abstraction when in office, discharging public duties. To this faculty of entire absorption of my powers, whether mental or physical, I owe any success I have ever reached." He read and studied morning and evening and wrote essays that he might form a correct and forcible style of composition.

In 1795 Jonathan and his brother, Matthew, leased their father's large farm of 375 acres and managed it with energy and success, and in 7 years he said, "We could command \$7,000 and had increased our stock and improved the land. At every spare moment I recurred to my studies. My desk and books were ever kept at hand. I never touched them, however, but with cleanly washed hands." In 1798, being then in his 28th year, he was elected to the Legislature and was one of the youngest members. At that time the seat of the State Government was at Lancaster. Speaking of his return home at the close of the first session, he said, "I sat down to a plain farmer's table, lodged in the old loft on a chaff bed, and in three days had resumed my usual habits of daily toil."

He was returned to the Assembly the next year and began to take part in the discussions before the house. In 1807 he was elected contrary to his expectation to the State Senate by a majority of 500 over John Richards, a popular German candidate. In that body he was a prominent actor, and at the close of the term had acquired a reputation for high character and ability. In 1811 he was elected by the Republican party a member of Congress, in conjunction with Gen. Robert Brown, of Northampton county, and William Rodman, of Bucks, and in the autumn went to Washington in a private hack through Lancaster, which was called the western route. The question of a war with Great Britain for her aggressions upon our commerce came before Congress, and Mr. Roberts took a firm stand with the administration of Mr. Madison in favor of that measure and made an able speech against the arbitrary assumptions of the mother country.

By an arrangement instituted by the Legislature in 1812, Montgomery and Chester counties were erected into one district, which Mr. Roberts was chosen to represent. He continued to favor carrying on the war with vigor, and rose to such prominence as a statesman, that he was chosen a member of the U. S. Senate, and having resigned from the House of Representatives he took his seat as Senator, Feb. 28, 1814, and served with honor till 1820, the end of his term. He earnestly opposed the extension of slavery and the Missouri compromise. After the expiration of his career in Congress he was sent again to the

Pennsylvania Legislature and subsequently re-elected. In the political contests between Gen. Jackson and John Quincy Adams, he advocated the claims of the latter, and was henceforth associated with the Whig party, and was a delegate to the National Convention that met at Harrisburg and nominated General Wm. H. Harrison for the Presidency. When John Tyler became President, he appointed Mr. Roberts Collector of Customs at Philadelphia, greatly to his surprise, as he had recommended for the post Henry Morris, the youngest son of Robert Morris, the Financier of the Revolution. With President Tyler's course in breaking away from his former affiliations he did not sympathize, and resigned the collectorship, which was his last public office. So decidedly was he in favor of home manufacture, that he would never knowingly wear a garment of foreign fabrics. He married when in his 40th year, in 1813, just before the adjournment of Congress, Miss Eliza H. Bushly, of Washington, a lady of rare endowments. His death occurred July 21, 1854, at the advanced age of 83 years. His wife survived him 11 years. They had nine children, one of whom, Jonathan M. Roberts, still occupies the ancestral property, which has been in possession of the family the protracted period of 213 years.

An act was passed by our Legislature, April 2, 1822, constituting the Eighth Congressional District of the counties of Bucks, Northampton, Pike and Wayne, to be represented by two members. In the 17th and 18th Congresses, that is from 1822 to 1824, Samuel D. Ingham and Thomas J. Rogers were the two joint representatives. In 1824 Mr. Rogers resigned, and Hon. George Wolf was elected to fill the vacancy. He was born in Allen township, Northampton county, August 12, 1777, of German parentage. He received a classical education, studied law, was admitted to the bar, and commenced practice at Easton. When a young man he was initiated into the Order of Free Masons and was for many years a popular member of Easton lodge. Active in politics, he was sent to the Pennsylvania Legislature, serving his constituents faithfully, was crowned with higher honors, and elected to the House of Representatives in Washington, for the second session of the 18th Congress, taking the oath of office, December 9, 1824. Re-elected to the 19th and 20th Congresses,

his term of service extended to March 3, 1829, nearly 5 years. He was then chosen Governor of Pennsylvania, and was an able and honored chief executive from 1829 to 1835, six years. An ardent Democrat and an earnest friend of General Jackson, he was appointed first Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States, and discharged with ability the duties of that responsible position from June 18, 1836, to February 23, 1838. When Mr. Van Buren occupied the Presidential chair, he received the lucrative appointment of Collector of Customs at Philadelphia. Two Presidents thus indicated their high appreciation of his talents, industry and integrity. He died in Philadelphia, March 14, 1840, in the 64th year of his age.

In the 21st and 22nd Congresses Hon. Samuel A. Smith, from Bucks county, and General Peter Ihrie were united in representing this district. General Ihrie was born in Easton, February 3, 1796. It is said by those who knew him, that he was a gentleman in every sense of the term, courteous, brave and honorable. In 1829 he was elected to Congress as a Jackson Democrat and re-elected in 1831, serving four years. In the days of the organized militia he was Major General of a division, and had the reputation of being a thoroughly trained officer. For many years he was a member of the board of directors of the old Easton bank and the solicitor of that board. He was one of the founders of Christ Lutheran church in Easton, and for a long period the president of its board of trustees.

His first wife was Camillia Ross, daughter of Judge John Ross. By this marriage there were five children, two sons and three daughters. Their mother died November 11, 1841. He subsequently married Eliza Roberts, of Newtown, a sister of the late Judge Stokes L. Roberts. General Ihrie died at the family residence, on the northeast corner of the public square in Easton, March 28, 1871, in the 76th year of his age. His remains were interred in the Easton cemetery. He lived a long useful life, respected and honored by the whole community. His brother Anthony, the only survivor of his family, still (1895) resides in Easton.

From 1832 to 1843 Bucks county alone constituted the Sixth District with one member of Congress.

From 1843 to 1852 the Sixth District was composed of Bucks and Lehigh counties with one member. In the latter year the name of the same district was changed to the Seventh, up to the present time with several alterations of territory it has sent but one member to the National Lower House at Washington.

I will now give a list of all who have represented our county in Congress, as complete as I have been able to make it. Some having been in office at different times, I will mention their names but once, in chronological order, according to the date of their first election: Henry Wynkoop, Samuel Sitgreaves, Robert Brown, Isaac VanHorne, Frederick Conrad, John Pugh, John Ross, Jonathan Roberts, William Rodman, Samuel D. Ingham, Thomas J. Rogers, Samuel Moore, George Wolf, Peter Ihrle, Robert Ramsey, Matthias Morris, John Davis, Michael H. Jenks, Jacob Erdman, Samuel A. Bridges, Thomas Ross, Samuel C. Bradshaw, Henry Chapman, Henry C. Longnecker, Thomas B. Cooper, John D. Stiles, M. Russell Thayer, Caleb N. Taylor, John R. Reading, Alfred C. Harmer, Alan Wood, Jr., I. Newton Evans, William Godshalk, Robert M. Yardley, Edwin Hallowell, and Irving P. Wanger.