

THE PRUGH FAMILY of Pittsburg, to which Rev. J. H. Prugh belongs, were early settlers in the state of Pennsylvania and Maryland. The following genealogical facts have been taken from a paper read in 1886 at a reunion of the family at Springfield, Ohio, by a member of the family, Harrv H. Prugh:

(I) The great-grandparents, the progenitors of the family in this country, were natives of Prussia, Europe. They emigrated to America between the years 1720 and 1725, landing at the city of Philadelphia. Like most of the original emigrants at that period, they belonged to the more humble class in society, and came here when young to defray the expenses of their passage from the old to the new world. Upon their arrival at Philadelphia they were sold as mere servants to liquidate the expense attending their passage over the seas. The father then instituted arrangements by which he paid for his own freedom and also that of his sweetheart. They were united in marriage and settled at a place known then as Trappe, in eastern Pennsylvania, and from this union has come the numerous Prugh family in America.

Of their European ancestry but little is now known, as is the case of many of the earlier families, who sought for themselves a home in the new world. It is related, however, that three brothers came over at the same time, one of whom became dissatisfied and returned to his native land; the second brother remained, but was separated from the progenitor of this branch of the family, and there seems to be no trace of him, or of his descendants, if indeed he ever married and had children.

(II) Conrad Prugh, supposed to be the only child of the American emigrant ancestors, was born in Trappe, Pennsylvania, November 29, 1742, and died about December 30, 1806, aged sixty-three years and one day. He married a lady who emigrated from Germany named Lucie Marie Finkebeiner, born June 27, 1743. and died May 3, 1816, aged sixty-seven years, five months and three days. A few years after his marriage Conrad Prugh removed to Frederick County, Maryland, where he purchased a tract of land of one hundred acres. He was by trade a shoemaker and followed this and carried on his farm. To this couple were born sixteen children, including two twins who died in infancy. The remaining children by this marriage were as follows: Frederick, Jacob, Henry, Katherine. Elizabeth, Hannah, George, Hester, Peter, Susan, Abner, Mary, John and Sophia.

(III) Frederick Prugh, the first born of the emigrant ancestor's grandchildren, was born February 2, 1768, and died in Frederick, Maryland, July 28, 1851, in his eighty-fourth year. Both he and his wife were of sturdy stock, and they as well as many of the descendants furnish instances of unusual longevity. To this couple were born nine children, *inc.*: John, David, Peter, Abram, Sophia, Mary, Rachel, Callie and one other.

Abram, David and Peter went west. John was born in Frederick County, January 1, 1794, and emigrated to Ohio in 1821, settling in Preble county, but not liking that section removed to Montgomery County, where he bought a farm. He had considerable property when he came to this county, and by frugal management and upright dealings amassed quite a goodly fortune at the time of his death. He was a devout and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and died October 23, 1879, at the advanced age of eighty-six years.

(III) Jacob Prugh, the second child of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born in 1770, and settled in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, about 1804, twenty-five miles east of Pittsburg, near Greensburg, the county seat. There he bought a farm which he greatly improved and sold in 1806, when he bought again in the same county. His two children were Abner and Susan Prugh.

(III) Henry Prugh, the third son of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born in 1772 and settled in Butler County, Pennsylvania, near Armstrong, about the time his brother Jacob did. He purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the heavy timber. By trade he was a blacksmith and a man of marvelous strength and endurance. It is said that he met an untimely death in exerting his strength at throwing a hogshead over his head by his teeth. He had one child, George Prugh.

(III) Katherine Prugh, the fourth child of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born in the same place as her older brothers, about 1774, and was married to John Winter, a farmer by whom she had the following five children: Samuel, Martin, Rebecca, Hester and Judah. Samuel lived on the old homestead near New Windsor, Frederick County, Maryland. Martin and Hester died prior to 1886. Rebecca married a Mr. Warner and was living a widow in Montgomery County in 1886. Judah married a Mr. Appler, who died, and last accounts she was residing in Hannibal, Missouri.

(III) George Prugh, the fourth son and fifth child of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born in Frederick County, Maryland, in 1776, and died August 21, 1831, aged fifty-five years. He married Margaret Makely, of the same county, and removed to Madison County, Ohio, in 1812. His home consisted of one hundred and sixty acres and was in the big woods where he began the life of a pioneer in the unbroken forest under perplexing surroundings. This was during the war period of 1812 and the government confiscated his horses and wagons, but having a stalwart make-up and a willing disposition he was enabled to go ahead and by his ceaseless toil succeeded in improving his land, thus making for himself a good home. He reared his family of ten children, who were as follows: Henry, Katherine, Gabriel, Samuel, Julia and Mary (twin sisters), George W., Aquilla and Margaret. Henry, the oldest, was killed by lightning August 23, 1835, aged thirty-two years. The descendants of this branch of the Prugh family are quite numerous and well-to-do as a rule.

(III) Elizabeth, the sixth child of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born about 1778, and married Larry Schell, removing to Ohio in 1812. Unto this couple were born: Jacob, Henry, Larry, Joseph, Katherine, Mary, Rebecca and Elizabeth.

(III) Hannah, the seventh child of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born in 1780, married Thomas Crept, and died in 1867, aged eighty-seven years. She was the mother of five children: Elizabeth, Mary, Hester, Abram and William, none of whom ever married. Three survived in 1886.

(III) Hester, the eighth child of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born in Frederick County, Maryland, in 1782, and married a Mr. Slepurn and with him emigrated to Montgomery County, Ohio, in 1812. Of this union eight children were born: John, Peter, Abner, Sophia, Rebecca, Katherine, Abbie and Mary.

(III) Peter Prugh, the ninth child of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born in 1784, and with his wife lived in Preble County, Ohio. To them were born fourteen children: Abner, Peter, John, Daniel, Sarah, Jacob, Joshua, Julia, Isaac, Elizabeth, Benjamin, Abraham, Caroline and Joseph. The father died March 23, 1859, aged seventy-five years, and his wife Elizabeth died November 12, 1845. Their surviving children are all highly respected citizens.

* (III) Susan Prugh, fifth daughter and tenth child of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born in Frederick County, Maryland, about 1786, and moved to Ohio with her two sisters, Hester and Elizabeth. She subsequently married a Mr. Rhodes, by whom one child was born, Mary, who died young. He was the first grocer in the city of Dayton, Ohio.

(III) Abner Prugh, the sixth son and eleventh child of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born in Frederick County, Maryland, about 1789. He settled in Ohio in 1813, in Montgomery County, where he purchased eighty-seven acres of land. He reared a family of eleven children, as follows: Elizabeth, born March 11, 1819; Levi, born August 24, 1820; Sally A., born April 27, 1822; Rachel, born October 15, 1823; Mary A., born May 15, 1825; John, born June 9, 1827; Abner, born January 2, 1829; Abram, born August 30, 1830; Nathan, born April 15, 1832; Martin, born September 15, 1834; Lvdia, born August 30, 1837; Rachel and John, both of whom were deceased prior to 1886.

(III) Mary Prugh, the twelfth child of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born in Maryland and moved with her sisters, Hester and Elizabeth, to Ohio. She married a Mr. Isenangle and they settled at Flat Rock, Indiana, where she died leaving a large family.

(III) John Prugh, the thirteenth child of Conrad and Mary Prugh, was born November 25, 1795, in Frederick County, Maryland. On November 25, 1816, he married a Miss Maines, of his own county. By this union was born ten children: Jesse, David H., John, Peter, Henry, Nathan, Gideon. Jacob, Catherine and Thomas. About 1818 he moved to Clark County, Ohio, near Springfield, where he died in 1878, in his eighty-fifth year. He was a man of strong mental traits and an irreproachable character, a worthy example for the rising generations of his posterity. Although the Prugh family are all descendants from the same stock, Conrad being the progenitor of all, yet they have scattered widely in settlements and many of them are remote from each other as perfect strangers as truly as though not connected by the ties of blood and real lineage.

Sophia Prugh, the youngest of the large family of Conrad and Mary Prugh, died when aged but sixteen years.

It may be said of the Prugh family of which this notice treats that most of them are in good financial circumstances, many wealthy among them, and few, if any, indigent. As a family they are honest, frugal, hospitable and industrious. The type of the original stock was a pronounced blonde, but by intermarriage a diversity of types vary from the blonde to the deep brunette. They are usually healthy, robust and long lived.

(IV) Rev. Peter C. Prugh, D. D., the subject's father, and the son of John Prugh, was born in Dayton, Ohio, September 13, 1823. He graduated at Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, Marshall College, and was pastor of the First Reformed church of Xenia, Ohio, for twenty-one years. He was instrumental in establishing the Sailors' and Orphans' Home at Xenia, which was finally taken over by the G. A. R., and subsequently made a state institution. For twenty-one years he was superintendent of the St. Paul's Orphans' Home at Butler, Pennsylvania. Since 1903 he has lived in retirement with his daughter in the place where the last twenty-one years of his active work was spent. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity both from the Franklin and Marshall Colleges, as well as from Heidelberg University. He married Charlotte Hassler.

(V) Rev. John H. Prugh, D. D., is the second son of Dr. Peter C. and Charlotte (Hassler) Prugh. His mother was a native of Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. He was born in Xenia, Ohio, October 23, 1854. He graduated from the Xenia High School, Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, and the United Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Xenia, Ohio. He entered the ministry of the church of his ancestors, the Reformed Church in the United States. Upon completing his theological course he accepted a call to Grace Reformed church, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in May, 1880, and is now the oldest pastor in point of service in Pittsburg. He has been the president of the Bethesda Home, of Pittsburg, since its organization in 1891. This home has received over one thousand young girls during its existence. He has been president of the Pittsburg Synod of the Reformed church and president of the General Synod of the Reformed church in the United States—the highest honor which the church can bestow upon any of its ministers. For fifteen years he has been the vicepresident of the Foreign Missions of the denomination to which he belongs.

In 1895 the *Pittsburg Times* inaugurated a plan to send as its guests the five most popular clergymen in western Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and eastern Ohio on a cruise of the Mediterranean and visit to the countries of the far east. Dr. Prugh was one of the five ministers chosen. Seven million votes were cast for four thousand clergymen in the states mentioned. Dr. Prugh's vote was four hundred and sixty thousand. On three other occasions his congregation sent him to Europe, and in 1905, upon the invitation of the German Emperor, and as his guest, he represented the churches of the United States at the dedication of the great Protestant Cathedral in Berlin, Germany. Dr. Prugh's eldest daughter, Charlotte, accompanied him, also as the guest of the Emperor.

Grace Reformed church at Pittsburg, of which Dr. Prugh has been the pastor for twenty-seven years, was organized in 1854. Its first edifice was erected in 1857, and the present handsome building, one of the most beautiful in all the city of Greater Pittsburg, was built in 1903, at the corner of Dithridge and Bayard streets, near the Carnegie Institute and Schenley Park.

In 1883 Dr. Prugh married Miss Jane Cross, of Germantown, Ohio. By this union were born the following children: Charlotte A., Robert C, Julia Etta, John H., Jr., and Jane C. Prugh. Mrs. Prugh died in 1893, and their son Robert C. three years later.

EDWIN N. PRUGH, of the firm of Conroy, Prugh & Company, manufacturers of mirrors, of Allegheny, and a resident of Bellevue, was born July 9, 1853, in Xenia, Greene County, Ohio, a son of the Rev. Dr. Peter C. Prugh and grandson of John Prugh.

Dr. Peter C. Prugh married Charlotte Hasler, and they were the parents of four sons: Edwin N., of whom later; Daniel Kieffer, who died in 1898; William S., and John H. Prugh, D. D., pastor of Grace Reformed Church, Pittsburg.

Edwin N. Prugh, eldest son of Peter C. and Charlotte (Hasler) Prugh, was educated in the public schools of Xenia, graduating from the high school with the class of 1872. He early displayed a taste for music and took a course in the Xenia Conservatory of Music, becoming proficient on the pipe-organ, and also as a singer. After leaving school he began his business career in Dayton, Ohio, and at the same time became organist in the First Presbyterian church of that city. In 1881 he went to Pittsburg and entered the service of the wholesale dry goods firm of Joseph Home & Company. In 1885 he formed a partnership with John M. Conroy. under the firm name of Conroy & Prugh, for the manufacture of mirrors, this being the first firm of the kind between Philadelphia and Chicago. They began in a humble way, with a limited capital and in a small building on Pennsylvania avenue, Allegheny. Two years later Mr. Prugh's brother, Daniel Kieffer Prugh, of Xenia, Ohio, was admitted into partnership, the style of the firm becoming Conroy, Prugh & Company. A plot of ground was purchased on Western avenue, upon which the first buildings of the firm were erected, additional ground being subsequently bought adjoining and across the street, upon which was reared another large structure. From the beginning the firm, as mirror manufacturers and jobbers in plate and window glass, has had a steadily increasing and truly remarkable growth.

Mr. Prugh is now serving on the Bellevue school board. He has a beautiful residence on the corner of Dawson and Thomas avenues, in which he has lived since 1898. He belongs to the Mozart Club of Pittsburg, the Bellevue Club and the board of the Young Men's Christian Association. He is a member of Grace Reformed church, Pittsburg.

Mr. Prugh married, in 1892, Laura, daughter of Captain George H. and Loretta (Shillito) Ghriest, of Allegheny, and the following children have been born to them: Elizabeth, Margaret, Edwin, Nevin, Loretta and Helen.