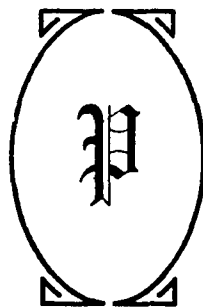


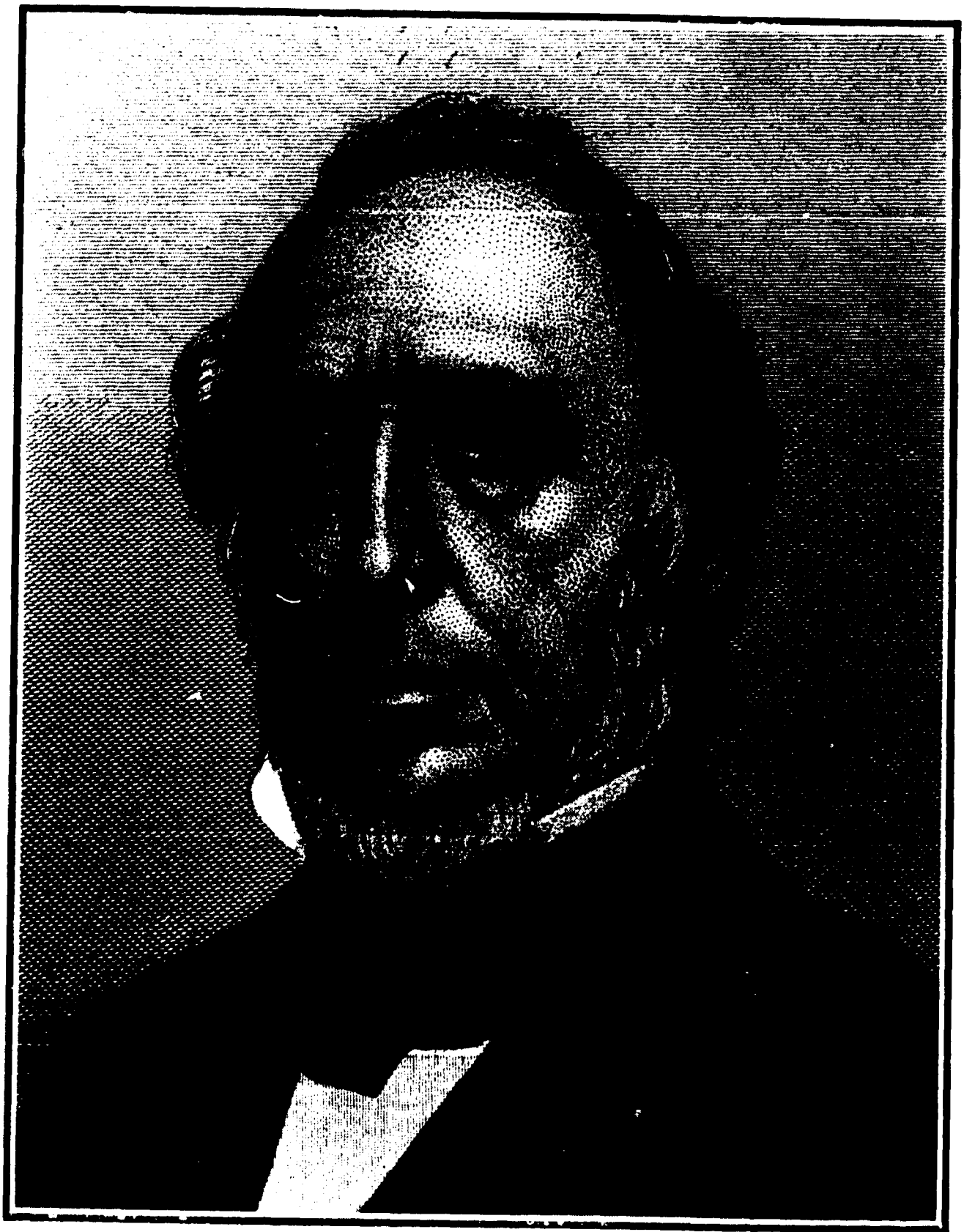
HISTORY
OF A
DISTINCTIVE FAMILY
OF
Scranton and Lackawanna County
Pennsylvania



By
S. FLETCHER WEYBURN
GENEALOGIST
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Series Number Twelve

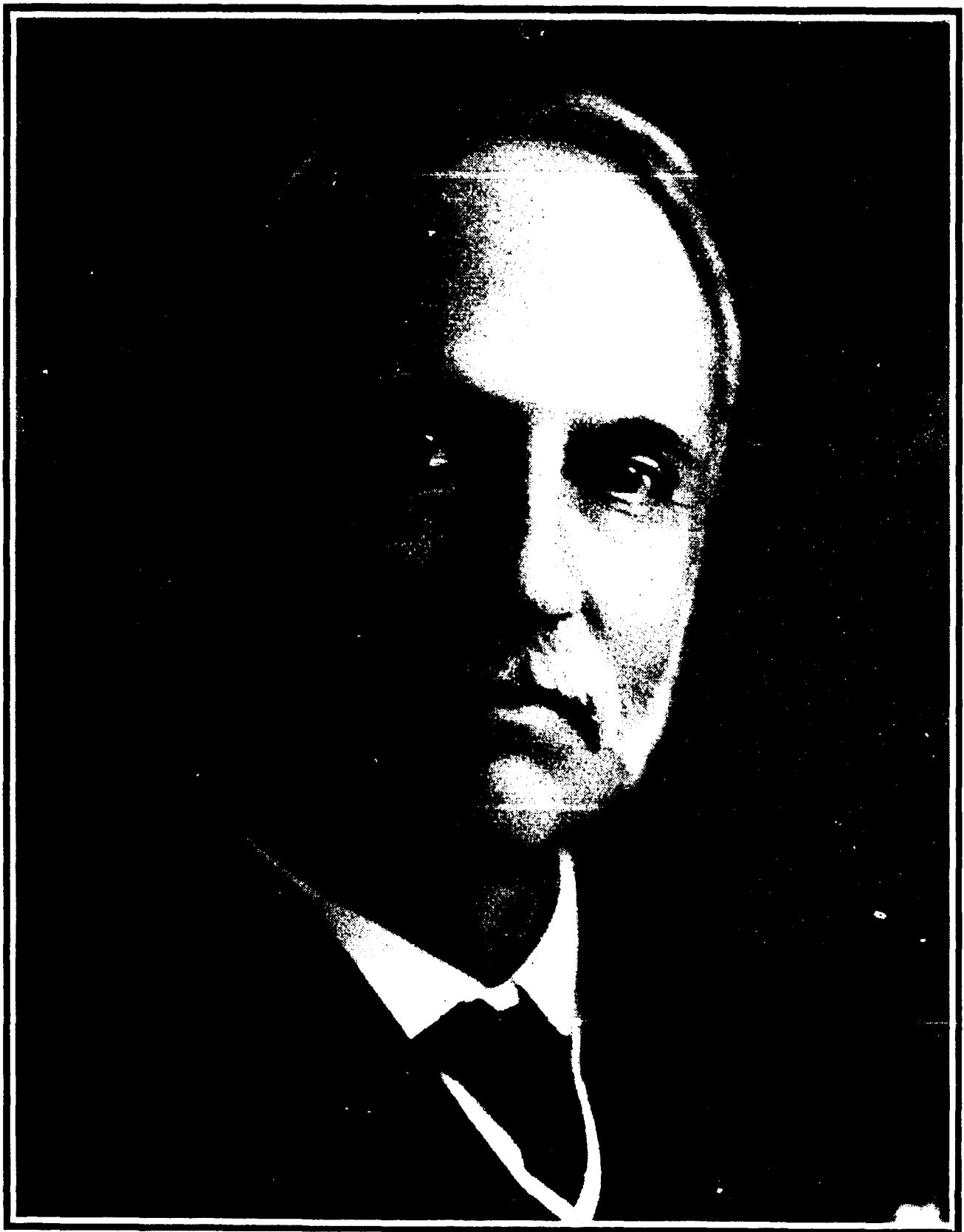
**Copyright 1929 by S. Fletcher Weyburn
Scranton, Pennsylvania
All rights reserved**



Geo. F. Ruxton

DEDICATED
to
WILLIAM HENRY PECK
Grandson of Rev. George Peck, D. D.

Vice-President, Life Member and Trustee of
the Lackawanna Historical Society, Scranton,
Pa., whose ancestors were prominent in laying
the foundation of the Methodist Episcopal
Church in Wyoming and Lackawanna valleys.



Wm. B. Beck

PREFACE

WITHOUT written biography the records of history would be incomplete. The work of the historian and genealogist provides the necessary material to enlarge this field of endeavor. Much has been written, by various authors, to popularize the history of Lackawanna Valley and render it fruitful to those who desire such knowledge; however, there remains an opportunity to extend this information in a more personal way.

This I have attempted to do through the publication of certain pamphlets which would reach a larger number of readers, and especially historical societies and colleges.

This publication offers the general reader an opportunity to learn something of a pioneer family which has rendered distinguished service in the upbuilding of the moral, spiritual, as well as the business life of Scranton and Lackawanna Valley.

Among the early settlers of America was one Henry Peck, who arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1637, and settled in New Haven in 1638. From this line we find a certain Luther Peck, who settled in Middlefield Center, Otsego County, New York State. He was a man of humble occupation but one who by thrift and piety reared five noble sons, all of whom became notable ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and five of their sons were of the same faith and calling.

No other denomination can present such an historic fact, and, when we consider that some of these chose Lackawanna Valley as a field for their labors, and by consecrated lives laid the foundations of our present religious development, it is certainly fitting in our line of research to give the local branch of this **distinctive** family due recognition, whose family motto has been for many centuries "Probitatem Quam Divitias."

S. FLETCHER WEYBURN

THE PECK FAMILY OF SCRANTON OF PURITAN STOCK

The pedigree of this family has a peculiar fascination. Emigrating from England in the good ship "Hector" in 1637, Henry² Peck landed on the "rockbound coast of New England."

On June 4, 1639, we find him in New Haven, Connecticut, where he signed as one of the original settlers of New Haven. He died in 1651, as his will was probated in that year. His house there continued to be occupied by his descendants for many years. There were four children mentioned in the will: Eleazer, **Joseph** and Benjamin and Elizabeth who married John Hotchkiss.

JOSEPH (2), his second son, married Sarah Alling, daughter of Roger Alling of New Haven, on November 28, 1672. They continued to live in the old homestead during their lives. Their children were: Sarah, Joseph, Samuel, James, **John**, Eliphalet, Abigail, Mary and Ebenezer.

JOHN (3), fifth child of Joseph and Sarah Alling Peck, was born October 6, 1682; married Esther Morris on January 30, 1706 or 1707, and they also lived in the old homestead during their lifetime. Children were: Joseph, **Eliphalet** and John.

ELIPHALET (4), second son of John and Esther Morris Peck, was born March 4, 1710. His father having died while he was young, he was brought up by his uncle James as guardian. Eliphalet left New Haven soon after and spent most of his life in Danbury, Fairfax County, Connecticut. The church records at Bethel show that he and his wife, Rebecca, and son Jesse became members at its organization. They had seven children: **Jesse**, Phineas, Elkanah, John, Stephen, Esther and Rebecca.

JESSE (5), eldest son of Eliphalet and Rebecca Peck. He and four sons entered the army in the Revolutionary War. He and two sons, Nathaniel and Eliphalet, were taken prisoners and confined in New York in the prison ship "Jersey" in the East River where they contracted smallpox—afterward were released and journeyed home on foot to Connecticut—from which illness Jesse and his son, Nathaniel, died. Jesse and his wife lived in the south part of Danbury (now Bethel) upon new land which he cleared. He married Ruth

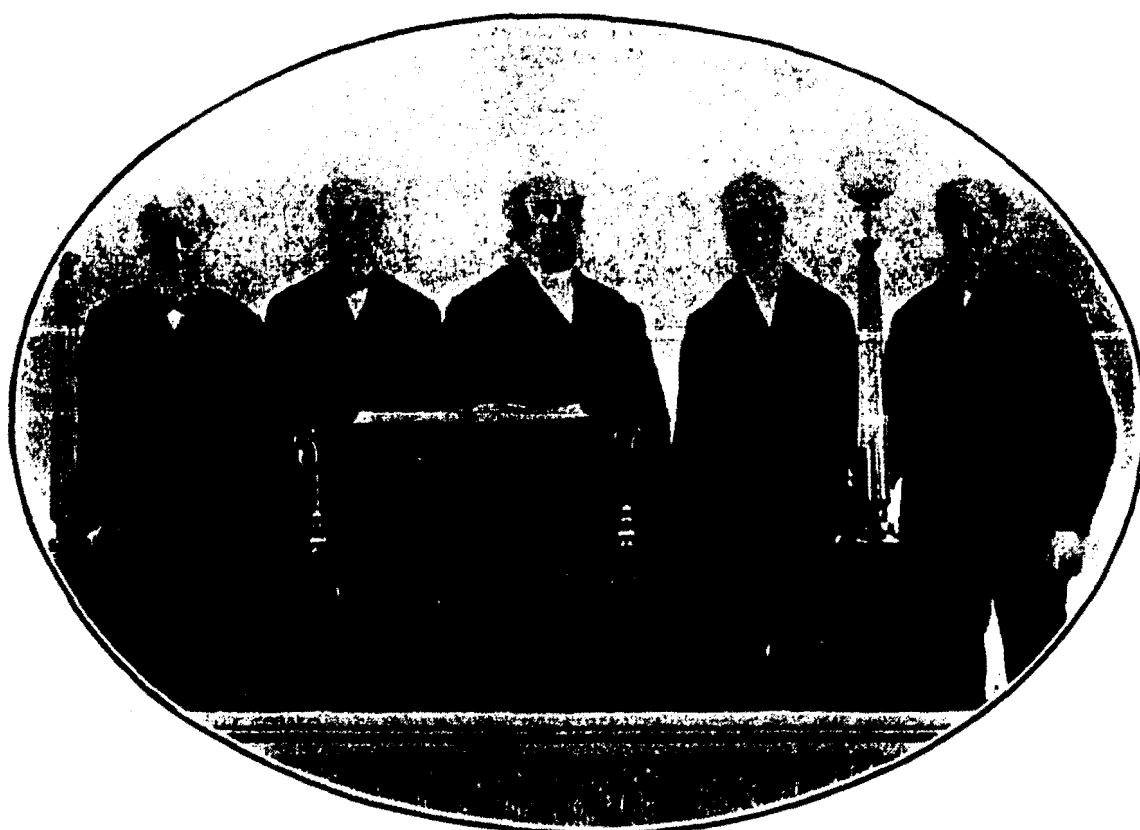
Hoyt. His children were: Nathaniel, Eliphalet, Jesse, Benjamin, Lois, Calvin, **Luther**, Daniel, Mercy and Esther. Jesse was an active member in the church at Bethel and died January 28, 1777.

LUTHER (6), son of Jesse and Ruth Hoyt Peck, born June 12, 1767, first lived in Danbury, Connecticut, and removed to Middlefield Center, Otsego County, N. Y., in 1794, where he pursued his trade as a blacksmith. At his conversion he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and became a class leader. His fidelity to every duty, and devotion to the cause of Christ won him great respect. (*)His five sons became prominent Methodist ministers, two of whom, **George** and **Jesse**, became eminent authors and preachers. **Jesse** became Bishop and later lived at Syracuse, N. Y. He was the prime mover in the founding of Syracuse University. **Luther** married Annis Collar on September 27, 1787. His father was a Private in the Revolutionary War and died at Valley Forge while in service. He died September 30, 1848. His wife died October 23, 1839. It is related of her that she was a woman of beautiful Christian character and gifted in prayer. Their children were: Rachel, Martha, Elizabeth, Luther H., **George**, Andrew, Mary, William, Anna, Susanna, and Jesse T.

*Rev. Luther H. Peck, Rev. George Peck, D. D., Rev. Andrew Peck, Rev. William Peck, and Bishop Jesse Peck. On June 10, 1869, these were all assembled at the Adams Avenue M. E. Church on the occasion of the celebration of the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Rev. George and Mary Myers Peck.



LUTHER PECK



LUTHER PECK'S FIVE SONS

REV. GEORGE PECK, D. D.

REV. GEORGE PECK (7), one of the five sons of Luther and Annis Collar Peck, who gave their lives to the ministry in the Methodist Episcopal Church. The fact that all the sons of this devoted couple were ministers is unique in the annals of any church.

He was born in Middlefield, Otsego County, New York, August 8th, 1797. Married Mary Myers, daughter of Philip Myers of Kingston, Pennsylvania, June 10, 1819. Died at Scranton, Pennsylvania, May 20, 1876*.

He united with the Church in 1812; licensed as an exhorter in 1815 and as a local preacher in 1816. His first sermon in Wyoming Valley was preached at Forty Fort in 1818. His fields of labor as a clergyman were as follows:

1816, Broome circuit, New York State, junior preacher; 1817, Cortland; 1818, Wyoming; 1819, Bridgewater; 1820, Canaan; 1821, Paris; 1822-23, Utica; 1824-25, presiding elder Susquehanna district; 1826, Wyoming; 1827, Wilkes-Barre; 1828-29, Ithaca, New York; 1830, Utica; 1831-32, Cazenovia; 1833-34, Auburn; 1835-38, principal Cazenovia Seminary; 1839, presiding elder Susquehanna district; 1840-47, editor Methodist Quarterly Review and general book editor of the Book Concern; 1848-51, editor Christian Advocate; 1852-53, Wilkes-Barre; 1854, presiding elder, Wyoming district; 1855, presiding elder, Binghamton district; 1856-57, Scranton mission (now Elm Park Church); 1858-61, presiding elder, Wyoming district; 1862-65, presiding elder Lackawanna district; 1866-67 Providence; 1868, Dunmore; 1869-72, presiding elder Wyoming district; 1873-76, superannuated.

In 1824 he was elected a delegate to the General Conference and was re-elected for twelve quadrennials following, which is a record never equaled in Methodism.

In 1835 received the degree of M. A. from Wesleyan University. In 1840 received the degree of D. D. from the College at Augusta, Ky. The same year he became editor of the Methodist Quarterly Review, continuing eight years. He was a member of the first Evangelical Alliance which met at London, August 19, 1846. In 1848 he became editor of the Christian Advocate which office he held for four years.

He was the first to suggest the establishing of a seminary at Kingston, Pennsylvania, and became one of the moving spirits in the founding of the Wyoming Seminary, and he was for several years president of its Board of Trustees.

During the Civil War he was a staunch supporter of Abraham Lincoln and his policies.

He was not only an eminent preacher but a celebrated author. His most noted books are "Wyoming, Its History, Stirring Incidents and Romantic Adventures," published in 1858; "The Life and Times of Rev. George Peck, D. D.," written by himself and published in 1874; a Book of Sermons, "Our Country, Its Trials and Triumph"**; "Lives of the Apostles"; "Why Are You a Methodist"; "Rule of Faith"; "Early Methodism"; and "Christian Perfection."

* The obsequies were held (1) in the Adams Avenue M. E. Church, where there was an outpouring of near and dear friends; (2) in the old church at Forty Fort cemetery, where the Rev. Benjamin G. Paddock delivered a most eloquent sermon on the life and character of the deceased.

** See appendix.

At the dedication of the Court House at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, as related by Cornelius Comegys, Esq., in the "Lackawanna Jurist," as chaplain of the day, he delivered the Invocation, "the language of which made an everlasting impression upon the minds and hearts of those who were present, and for long years was not without effect, and held in remembrance by the judges and lawyers who frequented the temple consecrated by it."

His long life was devoted to his Master and the Church he loved and served. It was well said by another:

"I view him as one of the most remarkable men of our times—one whose genius and piety are indelibly stamped on the ecclesiastical policy and wonderful growth of the church; whose wise counsels and herculean labors are interwoven in its development. For the past fifty years of his whole life he has been distinguished by a devoted love to the Church and unswerving loyalty to honest convictions of truth."

The children of George and Mary Myers Peck were:

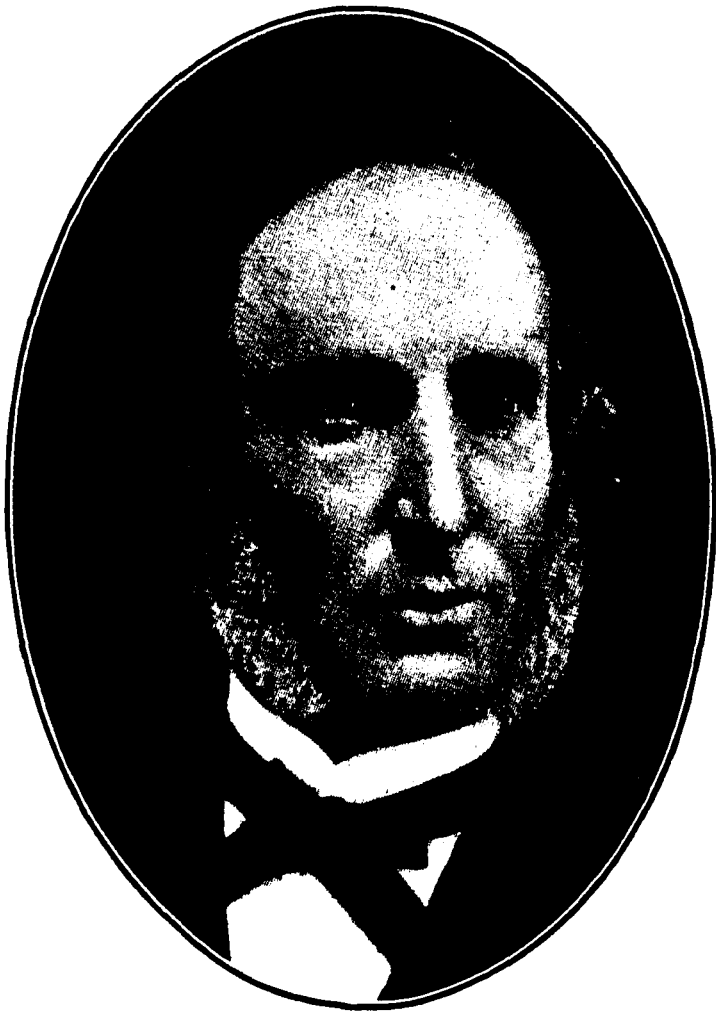
GEORGE MYERS PECK (8). Born at Forty Fort, Pennsylvania, April 17, 1820. Married Sarah Louisa Butler, daughter of Merit and Sabina Butler, July 18, 1839. Died at Scranton, Pennsylvania, February 16, 1897. She died May 30, 1902.

LUTHER WESLEY PECK (8). Born at Kingston, Pennsylvania, June 14, 1825. Died at Scranton, Pennsylvania, March 31, 1900. Married Sarah Maria Gibbons, January 18, 1847.

MARY HELEN PECK. Born April 10th, 1827; married Rev. J. T. Crane, D. D.

WILLIAM FISK PECK. Born September 17, 1828; died April 17, 1829.

WILBUR FISK PECK. Born September 11, 1833, married Sarah Jane Dean. He was a surgeon in the Civil War.



Geo. M. Peck



Luther W. Peck

REV. GEORGE MYERS PECK

REV. GEORGE MYERS PECK (8), eldest son of George and Mary Myers Peck, born at Forty Fort, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, April 17, 1820. Married Sarah Louisa Butler, daughter of Merit and Sabina Bigelow Butler of Onondaga County, New York State, July 18, 1839. The Butlers were of a pioneer family which located in the vicinity known as Butler's Hill (now Pompey) in Onondaga County. Their land was originally purchased from the Onondaga Indians for a pony, saddle and bridle by Ebenezer Butler, a soldier of the Revolution.

George Myers Peck was educated at Cazenovia Seminary, Cazenovia, Madison County, New York State. At the age of nineteen he left school to take charge of his father's farm in the Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania. After five years he left the farm to enter the Methodist ministry. He joined the Oneida (New York) Conference in 1845, and 1852 became a member of the Wyoming Conference at its organization.

His pastoral record is as follows: 1845, Salem; 1846-7, Canaan; 1848-9, Beach Pond; 1850-51, Mount Pleasant; 1852-53, Pittston; 1854-55, Wyoming; 1856-57, Providence; 1858, supernumerary; 1859, Owego, New York; 1860-61, Pittston; 1862-63, Carbondale; 1864-65, Providence; 1866-68, presiding elder Lackawanna district; 1869-70, Unadilla, New York; 1871, Berkshire; 1872-75, supernumerary; 1876-77, Cherry Ridge; 1878-79, Salem; 1880-81, Clifford; 1882-83, Park Place (now Court Street and Asbury churches); 1884-96, superannuated.

He died February 16, 1897. She died May 30, 1902. They had five children; Merit Butler, born October 8, 1840, died January 25, 1898; George, 2nd, born July 1, 1843, died May 12, 1858; Luther Wesley,* born March 22, 1845, died May 3, 1922; Josiah Eaton, born June 18, 1847, died October 24, 1865; William Henry (9), born May 28, 1852.

*Mr. Peck was an honored citizen of Scranton for many years. His widow, Mrs. Sadie Peck still survives him.

WILLIAM HENRY PECK

WILLIAM HENRY PECK (9), noted banker of Scranton Pennsylvania, son of Rev. George Myers Peck (8), grandson of Rev. George Peck, D. D. (7), was born at Pleasant Mount, Wayne County, Pennsylvania, May 28, 1852; married (1) M. Arminda Kyte, at West Pittston; married (2) Gertrude Pearce, at Rozelle Park, N. J.

To mention the subject of this sketch one must speak of his great achievement and national reputation in the banking field. Perhaps his greatest outstanding service has been the splendid success of the Third National Bank of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Therefore, it is fitting to give here a short summary of this institution.

The Third National Bank was organized March 1, 1872, and its first officers and directors were: President, Alfred Hand; vice-president, George H. Catlin; cashier, N. H. Shafer; directors, James Archbald, Henry M. Boies, George H. Catlin, William Connell, F. W. Gunster, Alfred Hand, John Jermyn, E. C. Lynde, William Matthews, Lewis Pughe and J. A. Scranton. Mr. Catlin* is the only surviving member of the original directorate.

The bank opened for business April 15, 1872, at 504 Lackawanna Avenue, and on July 29 of that year moved to the old Republican building on Wyoming Avenue. On November 5, 1877, the bank moved to its present locality.

The late Hon. William Connell was elected president of the bank on January 19, 1880—Hon. Alfred Hand having retired after he had been called to the Superior Court bench. On March 7, 1882, William H. Peck joined its forces as cashier, resigning a position with the First National Bank with which he had been connected for twelve years. In 1889 the business had grown to such an extent that the quarters had to be enlarged, and after that improvement was made the bank was one of the finest in this part of the state. But the growth continued and the lot adjoining had to be purchased and the present magnificent banking building erected. Mr. Connell served as president until his death in 1909, and Mr. Peck was elected to succeed him.

It has always been the policy of Mr. Peck in conducting the business of the Third National Bank to afford special facilities to the business accounts of its customers, and it has held itself ready at all times to extend all reasonable lines of discounts as well as all other accommodations that safe banking affords. Its reputation for fair dealing is known to all, and it takes pride in that reputation.

The Third National has grown with the city and has kept pace with the times. It is skilfully managed; a sound, safe institution, and is directed with care and efficiency.

On May 29, 1919 the officers and directors of the Third National Bank held a banquet at Hotel Jermyn in honor of six of those of its employees who had served their country in the World War and who were present.

*Mr. Catlin was one of the organizers of the Third National Bank. He held the office of vice president for twenty-five years, and an active director with Mr. Peck continuously since 1882. His services have been duly acknowledged by resolutions adopted on August 28, 1929, on the occasion of his eighty-fourth birthday.

Addresses were made by Rev. George P. Eckman, Col. L. A. Watres, Wm. H. Peck, and others.

Mr. Peck was one of the organizers of the Pennsylvania Bankers Association and became president of that body in 1904. He is regarded as one of the foremost experts on handling commercial paper, current among bankers.

In 1904, when the Federal Reserve system was being organized and the country was looking for the best men to conduct its affairs, Mr. Peck was chosen one of the directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

His reports to his stockholders, and addresses before the Bankers Association have always been noted for their logic and clarity. His addresses on "Commercial Credits," "Federal Reserve Bank Requirements as to Rediscounts by Member Banks," "The Analysis of a Commercial Statement," and "The Value of Commercial Paper as Quick Assets" have had a large circulation, and the librarian of the Congressional Library requested a copy of the latter for reference. The firm of Benedict & Copp, note brokers, asked the privilege of printing same for circulation in Texas, and several other editions have been issued.

Hon. Louis T. McFadden, chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Currency, in his address to the Kiwanis Club of Scranton on March 27, 1929, congratulated Mr. Peck on his service to the Pennsylvania Bankers Association and referred to him as "one who showed no signs of worry over the intricate task of handling commercial paper."

Mr. Peck has always been an ardent supporter of Methodism. He first became a member of the Providence Methodist Episcopal Church and in 1873 transferred his membership to the First Methodist Episcopal Church on Adams Avenue, which later became the Elm Park Methodist Episcopal Church. He was elected trustee of this church and treasurer of the Board of Trustees in 1892 and has continued as such since. He was made trustee of the Wyoming Conference and treasurer of the Preacher's Aid Society Funds in 1889, which positions he still holds. In the latter office he handles a sum of \$600,000.00.

He has been a trustee of Syracuse University since 1903; trustee of the Young Men's Christian Association since 1902; for several years trustee of the Young Women's Christian Association at Scranton, Pa.; vice-president of the Pennsylvania Bible Society, Philadelphia; secretary of the Lackawanna Bible Society since December 4, 1904. During the financial troubles of the Scranton Tribune-Republican and the Scranton Truth he was made one of the receivers, and his son William J. Peck of Pittston, manager.

He was a member of the old Board of Trade and an active member of the Manufacturers Committee and is still a member of the new organization, the Scranton Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Committee on Commerce and Banking.

He is a life member, trustee and vice-president of the Lackawanna Historical Society of Scranton, Pa.; member of the Wyoming Historical Society of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; member and former president of the New England Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania; president of the Scranton Bedding Company.

Mr. Peck is an enthusiastic horticulturist and spends his summers at his beautiful orchards at Moscow, Pennsylvania. His love for water lilies

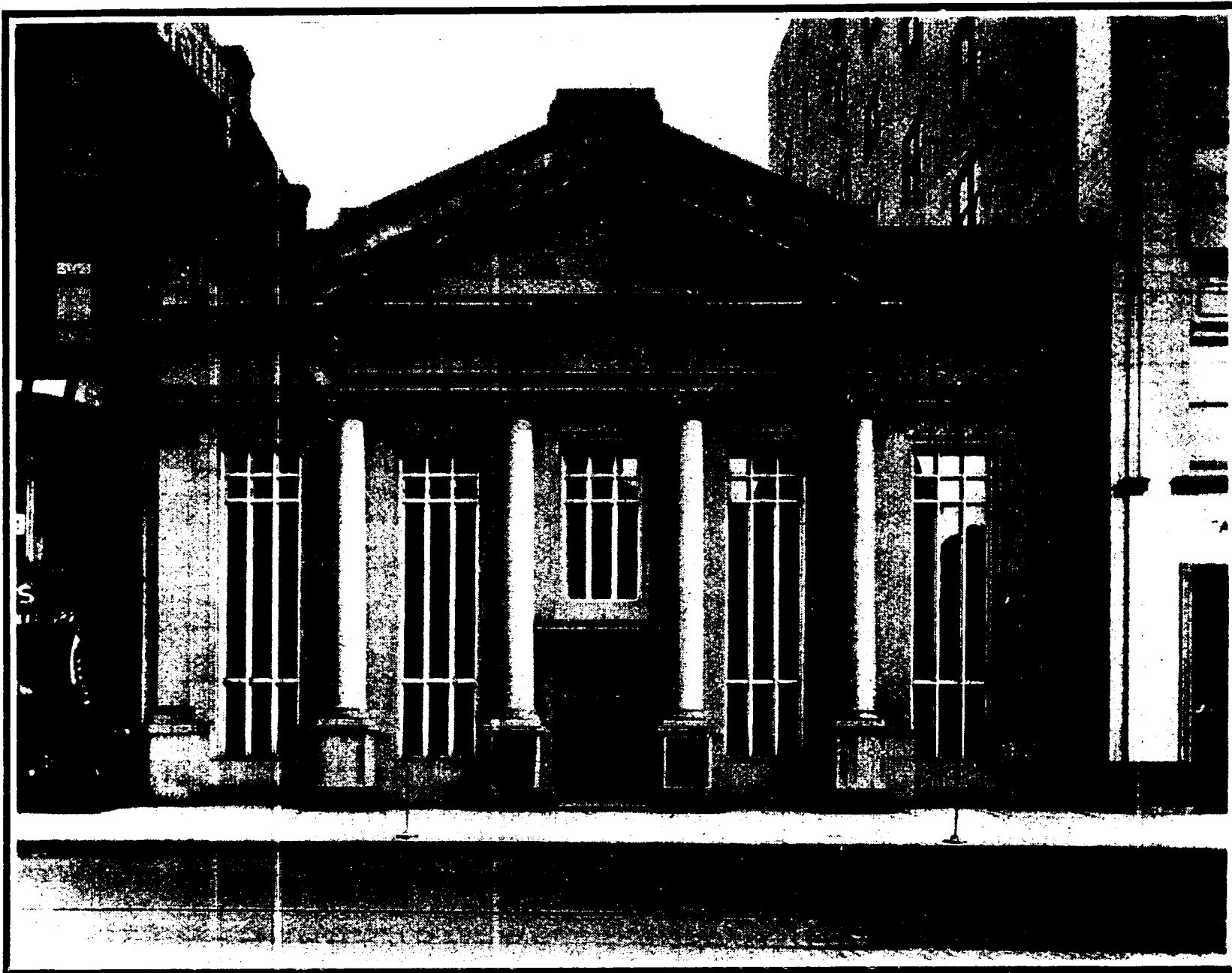
is shown by his fine ponds at his city home in Green Ridge (Scranton) and at Moscow, from which he delights to gather them for his office and friends.

In 1917 he was selected as one of the speakers pledged to speak on behalf of the Liberty Loan and received high commendation from Secretary William G. McAdoo.

Among other mementos inherited from his father are the old saddlebags used by his grandfather, Rev. George Peck, D. D., in his work as presiding elder. These he prizes highly.

Mr. Peck carries lightly the many cares of an active business life and keeps closely in touch with all of his interests.

Children born to William Henry and Armina Kye Peck: **William Joseph**, born January 24, 1874, a graduate of Syracuse University, Class of 1896, with degree of A. B.; member of the Official Board of West Pittston Methodist Episcopal Church; a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 233, F. & A. M., at Pittston, and of Irem Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.; also a member of the Board of Directors of Pittston Y.M.C.A.; president and general manager of the "Pittston Gazette," Pittston, Pennsylvania, the oldest newspaper of continuous publication in the upper Anthracite region, and postmaster at Pittston for over ten years; **Alice Louise**, born October 13, 1877, married Frank A. Kaiser; **Grace Armina**, born September 3, 1880, married Major Ralph A. Gregory; **Hannah**, died September 21, 1884, at the age of three years; **Mary**, born August 6, 1887, died in infancy; **Nelson**, born April, 1891.



THIRD NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

REV. LUTHER WESLEY PECK, D. D.

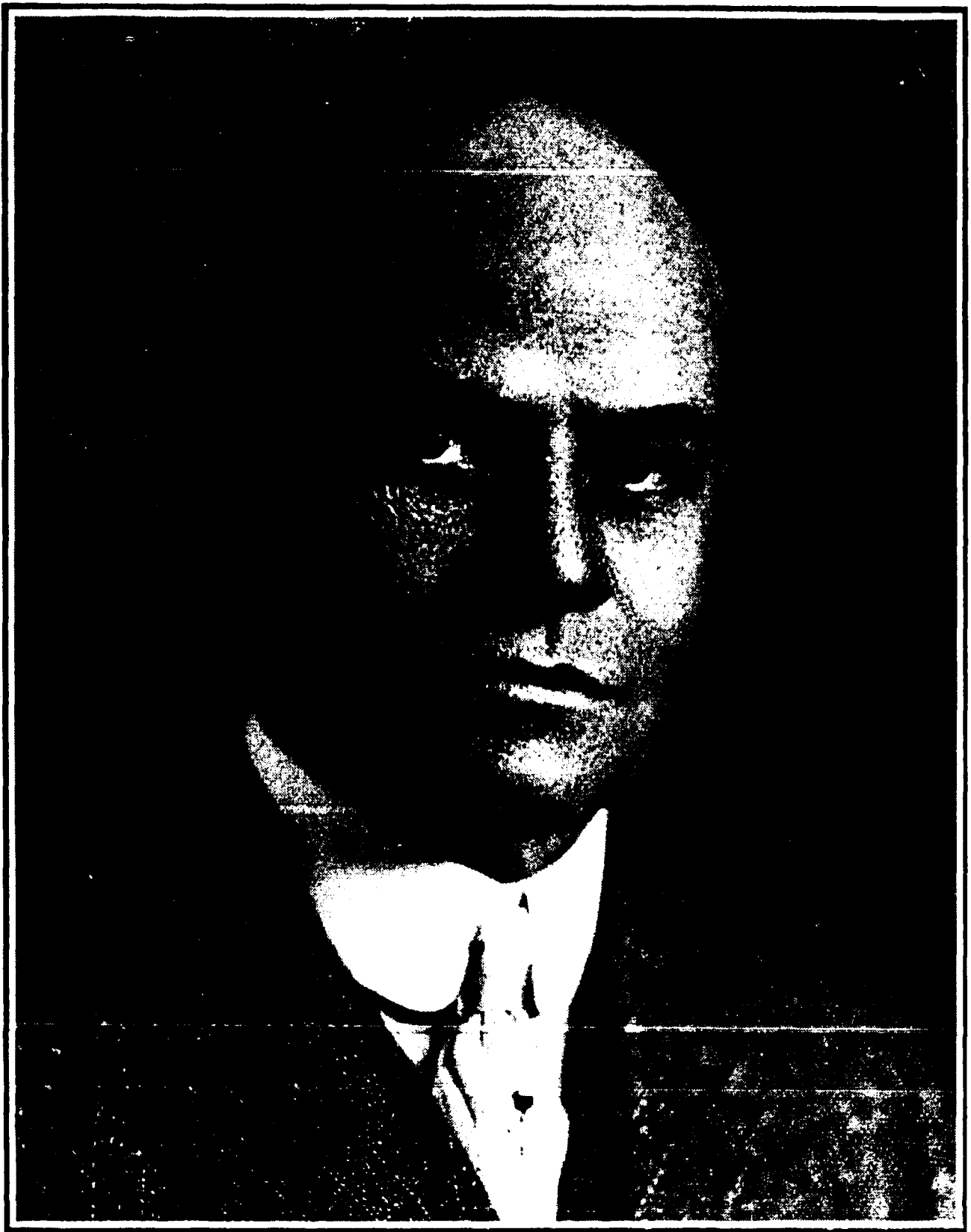
LUTHER WESLEY PECK, D. D. (8), son of Rev. George and Mary Myers Peck, was born at Kingston, Pennsylvania, June 14, 1825; married Sarah Maria Gibbons, January 18, 1847; died at Scranton, Pennsylvania, March 31, 1900. She died in 1911.

In his youth he was placed in charge of his uncle, (Bishop) Jesse T. Peck, who was then principal of the Methodist Seminary at Poultney, Vermont, to be educated. He entered Wesleyan University in 1840; graduated at the University of New York in 1845; received the degree of M. A., University of New York, in 1848; and the degree of D. D. from the same University in 1878. He was a popular preacher of the Wyoming Conference, an author and poet. Author of "The Golden Age" and the "Humming Bird."

His connection with the Wyoming Conference dated from 1866 and was successively stationed as follows:

His appointments in the New York Conference were: 1845, City of Brooklyn, Pacific Street Church; 1846-47, Durham; 1848, Wyndham; 1849-50, Rhinebeck; 1851-52, Sheffield, Mass.; 1853, Lee, Mass.; 1854-55, Newburgh, New York; 1856-57, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; 1858-59, New York City, Forty-third Street; 1860, Dobbs Ferry, N. Y.; 1861-62, Rhinebeck, New York; 1863, Kingston, New York; 1864-65, Middletown, New York. 1866-67, Simpson Church, Scranton, Pa.; 1868-70, Susquehanna, Pa.; 1871, Waverly, New York; 1872-73, Ross Street, Wilkes-Barre; 1874, Waverly, Pa.; 1875-78, presiding elder, Honesdale District; 1879, Pittston; 1880-82, Oxford, New York; 1883-84, Whitney Point, New York; 1885-86, Apalachin, New York; 1881, Hartford, New York; 1888-89, Yatesville, Pa.; 1890, West Nanticoke, Pa.; 1891-1900 supernumerary.

Their children were: Helen, Mary, Emma, Frances, Sarah, Susan, Jessie, Fanny, and **George Luther** (9).



Robert Lee

GEORGE LUTHER PECK

GEORGE LUTHER PECK (9), son of Rev. Luther W. Peck, D. D., of Scranton, Pennsylvania, grandson of Rev. George Peck, D. D. (7), a leading lawyer and banker, was born in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, February 12, 1869, and married Helen A. Mott, daughter of Frank W. and Harriet C. Kilmer Mott, in 1896. Mr. Peck has resided in Scranton, Pennsylvania, most of his life.

After receiving a public school training, George Luther Peck attended Cazenovia Seminary at Cazenovia, New York, graduated at Wesleyan University in the class of 1890, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He began the study of law in the offices of Hon. Cornelius Comegys, and in 1893 was admitted to the bar. He then entered into practice at Scranton under his own name, practicing in all the courts, and has built up an honorable reputation as a wise counsellor and able advocate. Mr. Peck is one of the founders and president of the Electric City Bank and Trust Company of Scranton.

During the World War Mr. Peck took an active part in promoting the efficiency of the various patriotic movements in the Third District, serving on many boards and committees; was at the head of the Legal Advisory Examining Board, and was ever ready to respond as a four-minute speaker, giving willingly and freely of his time, talent and means. In earlier years he served seven years as first sergeant in the 13th Regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard. In political life he is a Republican. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of Peter Williamson Lodge, No. 323, Free and Accepted Masons; and is Past Commander of Coeur de Lion Commandery, Knights Templar. For a number of years Mr. Peck has been a trustee of Wesleyan University, also director of the United States Lumber Co., and the Mississippi Central Railroad Co. He is a director of the Y. M. C. A. Mr. Peck is secretary and trustee of Masonic Temple Scottish Rite Cathedral Association. This body has in charge the building of the Masonic Temple. He is also a member of the Official Board of Elm Park Methodist Church, Scranton, Pa.

Their children are: George F., who is a graduate of Wesleyan University; James K., who is a graduate of Wesleyan University and of the Law School of Yale University; Mott, a student, who prepared for college at Mercersburg Preparatory School and is now a student in Wesleyan University; and Jesse T., who died when nine years old. The two eldest sons are both veterans of the World War.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

OUR HERITAGE*

By Rev. George Peck, D. D.

The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places;
Yea, I have a goodly heritage.—Psa. xvi, 6.

In this world, though crowded with moral and physical evils, there are "pleasant places." In the midst of wars and rumors of wars there are intervals of peace. While the ear is stunned with bacchanalian revels and noisy mirth, there may be found the temple of worship and the quiet family altar.

When surrounded by jagged rocks, yawning chasms, and stagnant pools, myriads of beautiful landscapes, variegated by the greensward, the yellow grain, and the waving corn, greet the eye. Beautiful flowers regale the sight and delicious fruits invite the taste. Among the monarchies and despotisms which wage war against human progress and crush out the freedom of the soul, there is one free republic where liberty has full scope. While large portions of the world are surrounded by the moral blight of heathenism, there is a true Church of God crowned with salvation and reflecting the glory of the Redeemer. The prospect is not all dark and forbidding, but the eye is cheered with physical beauty, while the heart is charmed with moral splendors. The people whose local habitation is surrounded with pleasurable objects are happy.

If there is a country on the map of the world truly favored of God it is our own America. We have a country, a government, and a Church bequeathed to us, primarily by God, and, secondarily by our fathers, which constitute a rich heritage, and which demand of us in return patriotism and religion.

We have a goodly heritage.

This country has "lines" or definite boundaries. The text refers to the lot which fell to the Israelites in Canaan. Their land originally included the country from the Arabian desert on the south to the mountains of Lebanon on the north, and from the river Jordan on the east to the Mediterranean sea on the west. Under the reign of David it embraced all the territory between the Euphrates and the Mediterranean, or "from the river to the ends of the earth," or the land's end. (See I Kings iv, 21, 22, and Psa. lxxii, 8.) The larger territory was all embraced in the promise given to Abram. (Gen. xiii, 15.

*Quoted from a sermon published in his Book of Sermons in 1865. The vision and power of Dr. Peck is peculiarly shown in this sermon and his words of wisdom are as applicable today as when spoken.

There is a striking analogy between the lines of the land of Israel and those of our own country. Originally the land divided by Joshua embraced little more than a narrow strip of country between the Jordan and the Mediterranean; but ultimately, under Solomon, it covered the whole country between the Euphrates and the border of Egypt (I Kings iv, 21). Originally we only had thirteen states, embracing the country from the Atlantic to Lake Erie, and from the Canada line to the southern boundary of Georgia. Ultimately we became possessed of the whole territory between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and from the British possessions on the north to the Gulf of Mexico on the south. These are our lines today. This vast territory has come into our possession, so far as human agency is concerned, partly by conquest, and partly by purchase from other nations and the Indian tribes. The providence of God being concerned in the whole arrangement, we should regard our country as a divine gift, an inheritance conferred by Him who rules over the affairs of nations, "setting up one and putting down another."

The lines are fallen to us in pleasant places. This is truly "a delightful land" in the beauty of its natural scenery; its towering mountains, with their fertile slopes: its vast rivers, with their luxuriant vales clothed with every variety of flowers and fruitage, loaded with agricultural wealth, and crowded with animal life of every variety. We have the gay bloom and golden fruit of the tropics, and the glistening glaciers of the Rocky Mountain heights; the rapid but short-lived vegetation of Lake Champlain, and the perennial verdure of the gulf states. Whatever of beauty invites the eye upon the plains of Italy or on Alpine heights, is found here in profusion.

The splendid moving palaces which crowd our seaboard, and thread in all their windings the Connecticut, the Hudson, the Ohio, the Mississippi, and the Missouri, add a new element of beauty to the rockbound ocean, and the streams which rush from the mountains, meander through the vales, and form bays in connection with the great ocean. The rapidity of transit unites all extremes, bringing together autumn and spring, winter and summer, and heightening the interest by the contrast.

Hitherto I have dwelt mostly upon the sources of pleasure opened in the beautiful and interesting scenes presented to view in such abundance in this goodly land. Let us next survey the resources of this country as it regards material wealth and physical comfort.

We have a soil of unsurpassed productiveness, furnishing every variety of grains, grasses, roots, and fruits in luxurious abundance. The hand of industry is everywhere rewarded with the most ample yield of food for man and beast. Our commerce pours in a ceaseless tide of wealth, our merchant ships visiting every part of the world, and our sails whitening every sea. Our mineral wealth seems without bounds. The gold of California, and of the slopes of the Rocky Mountains; the lead and copper of the western states, and the coal and ores of Pennsylvania, are sources of boundless wealth to the nation. Our manufactories produce an abundance of the means of domestic comfort and a state of advanced civilization. Our artisans excel in skill, and our discoveries rival the genius of the world. I speak of all this as sober truth, which should call forth the nation's gratitude, and be matter of just pride.

This glorious land is ours—let it never be divided. Let no profane hand ever “remove the ancient landmarks.” Let not an inch of it ever be conceded to rebellion. The politicians of Europe tell us that our “lines” embrace too much territory, that the magnitude of the great Republic endangers the peace of the world, that it is necessary that we should be weakened by divisions and subdivisions. The governments of the old world may find out that their peace may not be secured by their intermeddling with our affairs, and the best way to preserve the peace of the world is for them to let us alone. As to gratifying their wishes for a southern slave-holding confederacy, it may be done when the patriotism of the nation dies out—never before. The integrity of the whole country is the motto of every loyal citizen, and will continue to be, in storm and in sunshine, in light and in darkness, in weal and in woe.

We have a heritage of free institutions.

Our fathers, and the God of our fathers, bequeathed to us civil and religious liberty. The “inalienable right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” is accorded to all who have not forfeited these inestimable blessings by crime.

Civil and religious liberty is the natural birthright of every human being, and that right is enjoyed here to a greater extent, and with fewer exceptions, than in any nation upon the globe.

Liberty of conscience and of worship is an invaluable privilege. Here no man’s conscience is restricted. Every one may select his own mode of worshiping God. If his professed worship does not infringe upon the rights of other individuals or the peace of society, or violate the laws of public morals, he is left to worship God “under his own vine and fig-tree, and there is none to molest or make him afraid.”

Our system of education is Christian without being sectarian. The temple of knowledge is open to all, not excepting the poorest of the people. None are necessarily ignorant of anything which is necessary to make the useful citizen. The rich are obliged to help educate the poor, and to assist in the improvement of the masses; thus contributing to the happiness and usefulness of the people, and to the greater security of life and property.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S TRIBUTE TO THE METHODISTS*

When the General Conference of the Methodist Church (North) met in Philadelphia in May, 1864, a committee of five prominent members was appointed, consisting of Bishop E. R. Ames, Rev. George Peck, D. D., Rev. Charles Elliott, D. D., Rev. Joseph Cummings, D. D., and Col. Granville Moody, to convey to President Lincoln the assurance of the loyal support of the Methodist Church.

It is fitting that, as Dr. Peck was a member of this committee, the response of the President be quoted here.

THE EDITOR.



“Gentlemen:

“In response to your address, allow me to attest the accuracy of its historical statements; endorse the sentiments it expresses; and thank you, in the nation’s name, for the sure promise it gives.

“Nobly sustained as the government has been by all the churches, I would utter nothing which might, in the least, appear invidious against any. Yet, without this, it may fairly be said that the Methodist Episcopal Church, not less devoted than the best, is, by its greater numbers, the most important of all. It is no fault in others that the Methodist Church sends more soldiers to the field, more nurses to the hospital, and more prayers to Heaven than any. God bless the Methodist Church—bless all the churches—and blessed be God, Who, in this our great trial, giveth us the churches.

A. LINCOLN.”

“March 18, 1864.”

*Copied from “The Christian Advocate” of September 9, 1926, page 1161.

REV. GEORGE PECK, D.D.

We publish the following just and noble tribute to his services: (Editor)

This veteran itinerant pioneer of Methodism, who upwards of half a century ago, traveled from the shores of the Lakes to the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers, planting the standard of Methodism among the early settlements throughout the valleys and mountains, is about retiring from active official labors. He is now 75 years old. For the past four years he has been Presiding Elder of Wyoming District in the Wyoming Conference. During that time he has kept all his appointments—preaching every Sabbath, as well as on extra occasions. His life has been an eventful one, and he now lays down his ministerial armour untarnished.

At a meeting of the Quarter Conference of the Adams Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Scranton, held on March 31st, the Hon. Lewis Pughe offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted and ordered to be printed in our city papers and the official organs of our church:

WHEREAS, It is the intention of Dr. George Peck, our venerable and esteemed Presiding Elder, to retire from the active duties of the ministry, therefore,

RESOLVED, That we recognize in him "a Patriarch in Israel," one of the most active and earnest pioneers of Methodism. A man of earnest convictions, who has stamped the impress of his noble, cultivated, Christian mind, on the ecclesiastical polity and literature of our church, until his praise is in all the churches wherever the gospel trumpet of salvation is sounded. It is a source of gratification that we have a man who has proclaimed the Gospel for over half a century, and never done aught to sully his reputation, or that of the church.

RESOLVED, That we express our warmest affection for him, and deep regret that circumstances constrain him to retire from the active labors of the ministry. We are glad that in his retirement he will remain among this people, so that we can be benefited by his wise counsel and great experience, as well as his exemplary Christian character.

(From the "Morning Republican," April 2, 1873)

REV. JONATHAN K. PECK, D. D.

One of the grandsons of Luther Peck who became a noted preacher in the Wyoming Conference, 1853-1892, an author of "The Seven Wonders of the New World" and, "Luther Peck and His Five Sons," is worthy of mention here.

"Rev. Jonathan Peck came, like so many people of prominence in this section, from New England ancestry. As he himself said, he was born on a blustering December night, December 31, 1824, among the snowy hills of Chenango county, N. Y. His father was Rev. Luther Hoyt Peck, who was born in Connecticut, and his mother was Mary Kenyon, a native of Rhode Island. The elder Peck lived on a farm and also did mechanical work and the youth was brought up to both of these occupations.

When 17 years of age Jonathan Peck came to Pennsylvania and to Wyoming Valley, footsore and without money, for he had left home to seek his own way in the world, having as his only stock in trade a common school education. He found a home with relatives and friends in this valley and worked hard, saving all the money he could. One day he went to hear Stephen Olin preach in the old church on Public Square, near where the court house now stands. His text was "Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God," etc. The sermon had pathos and power in it and young Peck was moved. He was working at mending wagons in Forty Fort at the time and he was then 20 years old, with little money, but lots of ambition. However, he succeeded in entering Wyoming seminary, which was then in charge of the beloved principal, Nelson, and was determined to do something. After two years of study he took his diploma among the four-year students. Then he taught a select school in the state of Maryland for one year, came to Wilkes-Barre to visit and the same year, 1853, he became a member of Wyoming conference. The Maryland ministers and school officers were loath to part with him, but he decided to remain here and for over 30 years he preached in regular charges, including four years as presiding elder of the Honesdale district.

In 1861 Rev. Mr. Peck was treasurer of the conference missionary society and also statistical secretary for the conference.

During the years 1883 and 1884, when he temporarily retired from the pulpit, Rev. Mr. Peck was librarian for the assembly of the state of New York.

His dying was as he would have desired; for it was a frequent saying with him that he "wanted to die with the harness on." This desire was literally granted. In the presence of a large watch night service, at Kingston, he was speaking. Sixty minutes of the old year remained. He had spoken of "Old Fashioned Methodism," and was concluding an admirable address, and with these words, "The Fathers where are they," when he fell upon the

Bible desk, and that was the end. It was a splendid closing of a clean, pure, honest, useful life. By the wish of the family the funeral was conducted in his late home. The pastor, Rev. L. C. Murdock, was in charge. Fifty and more of his ministerial brethren were present. Remarks were made by the Rev. Drs. Griffin, Sprague, and Hard.

He sleeps in the Wyoming Valley, whose history he knew so well, near the shores of the Susquehanna, of which he was so proud and wrote so early.

MR. PECK'S FAMILY

Mr. Peck was married in April, 1857, to Mary Searle, of Plains, who came from an old and estimable family and their married life was one of exceeding happiness. He is survived by four children: Mrs. J. Wood Platt, of Tunkhannock; Mrs. Charles C. Hard, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Jesse Peck of West Pittston, and Miss Mary Peck, who kept house for her father."

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THOSE SEEKING MEMBERSHIP IN THE SONS OF THE REVOLUTION AND DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

I,being the age of.....years and upwards, hereby apply for membership in this Society by right of lineal descent in the following line from Corporal Jesse Peck, Connecticut Militia, who was born in Danbury, Conn., on the.....day of....., 1725, and died in Danbury, Conn., on the 28th day of January, 1777, and who served in the War of the Revolution.

I was born in the city of.....State of
I am the daughter of (son).....born.....
who died....., and his wife.....
born..... married..... died.....
The said.....was the son of Rev. George Peck, D.D., born August 8, 1797, died May 20, 1876, and his wife, Mary Myers Peck, born March 12, 1789, married June 10, 1819, died July 31, 1881. The said Rev. George Peck, D.D., was the son of Luther Peck, born June 12, 1767, died September 30, 1848, and his wife, Annis Collar, born....., married September 27, 1787, died October 23, 1839. The said Luther Peck was the son of Corporal Jesse Peck, born....., died January 28, 1777, and his wife, Ruth Hoyt Peck, born February 26, 1738, married 1756, died February 2, 1809. And he, the said Jesse Peck, is an ancestor who assisted in establishing American Independence while acting in the capacity of Corporal in the Connecticut Militia.

ANCESTORS' RECORD

Corporal Jesse Peck served in Captain Noble Benedict's Company, Bradley's Battalion, Wordworth Brigade, Connecticut State Troops, from August 26, 1776, to December 26, 1776, when he was discharged. He died of smallpox a month later. In "Connecticut in the Revolution," p. 421, he is given as Jesse Peck, as are also the names of his four sons, p. 421 and 422, namely, Nathaniel, Stephen, Jesse, and Eliphalet. Eliphalet became a pensioner as Eliphalet Peck, see U. S. Pension rolls 1835, Genesee County, New York, Vol. II, N. Y. Rolls p. 314, also U. S. Pension Rolls 1840, p. 82. Town of Alexander. Jesse Peck and his four sons served in the Connecticut Militia. See Peck Genealogy, p. 340. Also Hinman's, "The War of the American Revolution," 1842, p. 587, where see the appeal of Ruth Peck, widow of Jesse Peck, to the Connecticut Assembly, 1777, stating the above facts.

REFERENCES

Connecticut in the Revolution, page 421.
 Peck Genealogy, page 340.
 Hoyt Family, page 375.
 Hinman's War of the American Revolution, C. 587.

My Revolutionary ancestor was married at Danbury (now Bethel),
 Connecticut, on the.....day of....., 1756.

Children	Birth	To Whom Married
Nathaniel Peck.....	December 12, 1757.....	
Eliphalet Peck.....	December 19, 1758.....	Abigail Hauley
Jesse Peck.....	December 22, 1759.....	Anna Nickerson
Benjamin Stephen Peck.....	September 24, 1761.....	Elizabeth Nickerson Mary Osborn
Lois Peck.....	October 28, 1763.....	Israel Nickerson
Calvin Peck.....	September 3, 1765.....	Martha Abbott Taylor
Luther Peck.....	June 17, 1767.....	Annis Collar
Daniel Peck.....	August 21, 1769.....	Phoebe Whitlock
Mercy Peck.....	October 28, 1771.....	Died
Esther Peck.....	August 13, 1773.....	Died 1776

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Peck Genealogy.

Wyoming, Its History, Stirring Incidents and
Romantic Adventures, by Rev. George
Peck, D. D.

The Life and Times of Rev. George Peck, D. D.

“Our Country, Its Trials and Its Triumphs,”
by Rev. George Peck, D. D.

Biographical Histories of Luzerne and Lacka-
wanna Counties.

Forty-Ninth Annual Report (1900) of Wyoming
Conference.

The Christian Advocate of September 1926.

Seranton Board of Trade Journals.

Addresses by Mr. William Henry Peck.

Magazine and Newspaper Articles.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

NOW LOCATED IN THE EVERHART MUSEUM BUILDING
NEEDS PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUNDS

PERPETUITY OF FAMILY RECORDS ASSURED**

In looking over the records of other historical societies the writer has been impressed with the support given by the citizens of the various localities, chiefly the provisions made for the perpetuity of their society by means of endowments.

This fund is to be kept intact, and the interest to be used only for the purchase of books, for lectures, and for publishing their records, etc. To meet the growing needs of our society it is suggested that the **attention of our members and friends** be called to this most worthy way of helping the society.

Let your lawyer or Trust Company incorporate in your will the following bequest:

“I give and bequeath to the ‘Lackawanna Historical Society’ the sum of.....
for the said society absolutely.”

*The Society gratefully accepts books, histories, maps, deeds, and family records.

**It is important that the history and biography of prominent families of the Lackawanna Valley be perpetuated and handed down to posterity.

