

PROMINENT ALTHOUSES

I record the following at the risk of overlooking others who should be mentioned.

Uncle Will of Phoenixville, Pa. has been referred to several times. May I add that his credit rating in 1900 was \$500,000 which if compared to today's economy would be several million dollars. Through his Philadelphia business, he acquired wealth and became a country gentleman, living on his two Penn Horse Breeding Farms. He raised carriage or driving horses as well as race horses. The farms were connected by a beautiful private drive lined with elm trees. Adjacent was the defunct fairground which he bought in order to acquire the race track. William Penn the world's champion race horse lived in his own pasture to age 36. Uncle Will would call him to the fence and he would always come in the run for a lump of sugar.

Uncle Will had become prominent in Berks County before going to Philadelphia. He was elected to and served in a county court house office. He was a fifty year member of my Masonic Lodge, No. 62 in Reading.

My father's cousin, Horace Althouse, began as a messenger boy for the Reading Post Office at age 12, and rose to Assistant Postmaster in which capacity he served many years. He refused the Postmastership as he did not wish to become a political victim.

Paul Althouse sang with the Metropolitan Opera. He wore on his finger a ring with the Althouse Crest or Coat of Arms. While touring Europe, World War I had started and while in Italy, the German ring was noticed and together with the German name of Althouse, he was briefly detained in order to make certain that he was not spying for the Germans.

Scott Althouse built the multi-million dollar dye and chemical firm. He was known to have given \$500,000 to his college at Carlisle. His last home was the mansion at Gring's Mill Park. He was a second-cousin to my father.

Monroe Althouse, composer of band music and leader of the Ringgold Band for many years, was born in or near Centerport, Pa.

Adam Althouse, a lodge acquaintance, with whom I have had many conversations, is still living. He had been a manager of the Metropolitan Edison Electric Company.

[Althouse, Harry N.; Althaus – Althouse; A genealogical booklet; 1977]