

GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL ANNALS
OF
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

CONTAINING

A GENEALOGICAL RECORD OF REPRESENTATIVE FAMILIES, INCLUDING MANY OF THE
EARLY SETTLERS, AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PROMINENT
CITIZENS, PREPARED FROM DATA OBTAINED FROM
ORIGINAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Illustrated

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ship, serving as a member of the school board. He was a Republican in politics and a Lutheran in religion, holding membership in Zion's Church at Sunbury. His wife, Catharine (Snyder), of Upper Augusta township, was born April 13, 1809, and died Sept. 19, 1893. She is buried at her husband's side in the old south cemetery. They were the parents of eleven children, born as follows: Hiram P., Sept. 25, 1830; Jeremiah, Aug. 23, 1832; Isaac N., July 29, 1834; Thomas G., Nov. 15, 1836; Harriet S., Oct. 8, 1838; John L., Dec. 19, 1840; Simon, July 1, 1842; David W., Aug. 3, 1844; Mary C., Oct. 4, 1846; Dr. Joseph, Feb. 1, 1849; Luther S., May 3, 1851.

David W. Cooper received his education in the public schools of the home locality, and was reared to farm life, working for his parents until he attained his majority and remaining at home until he was twenty-seven years old. He taught school in his native township for three years, 1870-71-72. Mr. Cooper succeeded his father in the ownership of the farm, which he cultivated until 1902, when he retired and settled in Sunbury. Meantime, however, he was away from the place for nine years, during which time he resided in East Lewisburg. On his removal to Sunbury he built the comfortable residence at the corner of Fourth and Church streets, in 1902-03, which he and his wife have since occupied. Mr. Cooper has always been a public-spirited citizen, willing to work in a cause for the general good, and he served six years as a member of the board of school directors in Upper Augusta township, which was the first township in Northumberland county to adopt the free textbook plan; this change was made during his service. He was treasurer of the board for a time. He has always been a staunch supporter of the Republican party and was committeeman of his township for a number of years. In 1897 Mr. Cooper was appointed a member of the Farmers' National Congress, by the late Gov. Daniel H. Hastings, the meeting being held at St. Paul, Minn. Mr. Cooper attended this congress with thirty-three other delegates of Pennsylvania, and he is now a life member. He is the vice-president of the Pennsylvania delegation. For some years he held membership in the I. O. O. F. and the Conclave.

On Feb. 15, 1872, Mr. Cooper married Hannah Fasold, daughter of Jonathan Fasold, of what is now Rockefeller township. She died Feb. 23, 1884, aged thirty-eight years, the mother of one child, George, who was accidentally shot when seventeen years old. On March 29, 1888, Mr. Cooper married (second) Emma Leshner, daughter of Robert and Sarah (Vandling) Leshner, of Blue Hill, Snyder Co., Pa., and granddaughter of George Leshner. They had one daughter, Catherine P., who died at the age of fifteen years.

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper worship at Zion's Lutheran Church, Sunbury. While living at East Lewis-

burg he was identified with the Lutheran Church at Lewisburg, and served as trustee of that congregation.

KEISER. The Keiser family has been represented in Northumberland county for several generations, having been founded in this section by Henry Keiser, a native of Berks county, Pa., who had several brothers, Daniel, John and Reuben all locating in central Pennsylvania. Reuben eventually went West. Daniel was a farmer and tobacco grower in the vicinity of McEwensville, and is buried in that vicinity. He had children: Judiah, Henry, and a daughter now deceased, and Susan, who married John Bender and lived near Milton, Northumberland county.

Henry Keiser was born June 25, 1781, in Berks county, and came to Northumberland county after his marriage. Locating in Lower Augusta (now Rockefeller) township, on a large tract of land, he followed farming as well as his trade of carpenter. The Keiser homestead is now owned by the Nelson Miller estate, and the log house built thereon by Henry Keiser is still standing (1911). He cleared his land and remained there until his death, which occurred Nov. 13, 1861. He is buried in the now abandoned Dunkelberger U. E. Church graveyard and was a devout and active member of that church. The church itself has been torn down and the cemetery is in a sadly neglected state. Mr. Keiser's first marriage was to Eva Zimmerman, born Aug. 5, 1781, who died March 11, 1852, and his second was to Mrs. Auna (Chamberlin) Morey. His children were all by the first union, namely: George is mentioned below; Hannah married John Foy; Polly married Nathaniel Lytle; Daniel, who married Mahala Lytle, lived for many years in Shamokin township, but died at Mount Carmel; Isaac died in 1894 at Mount Carmel, where his widow, Susan (Kerr), now lives; Henry is mentioned below; Christina married Asa Morey and they lived in Potter county, Pa.; one daughter married Jonathan Smith; Teina married Mr. Morey.

George Keiser, son of Henry, was born Feb. 16, 1810, in Rockefeller (then Lower Augusta) township, and became a farmer, occupying part of his father's original tract, where he died Aug. 24, 1877. He was a Lutheran member of the Augusta-ville Stone Church. Mr. Keiser married Magdalena Bloom, daughter of Samuel Bloom, and to this union were born five children; we have record of Elizabeth (Mrs. Wesley Haupt), Absalom B. and Harriet (who was choked to death by a bean). His second wife was Elizabeth Bloom, sister of the first, born Nov. 9, 1813, died Sept. 2, 1901. Several children were born to this marriage: Hulda married George B. Conrad; Jacob S. married Polly Ruppert; Albert married Pauline Lerch, who lives in Hollowing Run, in Lower Augusta township;

Jerome is out West, in the gold fields; Mary married M. Luther Conrad and they live on the George Keiser homestead; Aaron B. is a resident of Mount Carmel. Some children died when young.

ABSALOM B. KEISER, now a retired resident of the borough of Sunbury, was born July 17, 1839, in Lower Augusta (now Rockefeller) township, son of George Keiser. He lived on the home farm until of age. During the Civil war he served as a member of Company H, 172d Regiment, Pennsylvania Drafted Militia, into which he was sworn for nine months or to the end of the war, and he reached the rank of corporal. At the close of his term, after the battle of Gettysburg, he returned to Lower Augusta township in August, 1863, and until 1865 cultivated his father-in-law's farm in that township. In 1865 he settled in Sunbury, where that year he bought a piece of ground containing one and a half acres upon which he built a small house, on Catawissa avenue. His wife had agreed to have a home anywhere but in the flat. When he drove his well he went down fifty feet and came to rock, finding plenty of water, but as others dug wells the supply was not so plentiful and he went down seven feet through the rock, with satisfactory results. In course of time he enlarged his house, and there he has remained to the present time, being now the oldest resident of his part of the borough. His land has greatly increased in value. For the first two years after his removal to Sunbury he burned lime and drove team, and he continued to follow hauling and draying throughout his active years, until his retirement in 1907. He prospered by thrifty management and industry, and now owns, besides his home property, a house in Augusta street and several lots.

On April 8, 1862, Mr. Keiser married Mary Ann Gass, who was born July 29, 1840, daughter of Joseph Gass, of Plum Creek Valley, and died Sept. 18, 1901. She is buried in the family plot in Pomfret Manor cemetery. Six children were born to this union: Martin L. died young; Della married Henry Heckert and has children, Lottie, Harry, Roy and Sarah; George died young; Maria G. married Frank Houghton (they have no children); William died young; Elizabeth, who is unmarried, keeps house for her father.

Mr. Keiser is a Democrat in political matters, and he has taken some part in local affairs, having served several terms in the council of East Sunbury; a few terms as constable of the borough of Sunbury; and four years as supervisor of Upper Augusta township. He is a citizen who has always commanded the respect and confidence of his fellowmen, and his upright life and faithful public services have gained him many well wishers. He was catechised at the Augustaville Stone Church, and he and his family have been identified with the Lutheran Church in Sunbury.

Henry Keiser, son of Henry the pioneer in Northumberland county, was born in May, 1811, in Northumberland county, Pa., and grew up on the home farm. He assisted his father with the agricultural work, and also learned how to make spinning wheels, at which he was engaged for some time. He then bought a tract of land at Trevorton, which he cleared, but in time he sold it and in 1834 removed to Shamokin, being one of the pioneers of that now thriving borough. For a number of years he followed contracting and teaming, in 1856 entering the mercantile business in partnership with Joseph Porter. This venture did not last long, however, as they were obliged to discontinue after a year, during the panic, and Mr. Keiser turned to a new industry, being one of the first men to contract timber to the mines in this section. He died at Shamokin in June, 1872, of smallpox. Mr. Keiser was a member of the Evangelical Church. He married Catherine Raker, and they had children as follows: Maria married David Fisher; Isaac R. became the father of Joseph A. Keiser; Harner married John R. Boughner; Jacob R., born May 1, 1845, is deceased; Henry H. was for many years a prominent merchant at Shamokin; Reuben is living in Shamokin.

Isaac R. Keiser, son of Henry, was born June 30, 1839, and died March 29, 1901, at the age of sixty-two years. He was for a number of years a well known merchant of Shamokin, where he engaged in business in 1869 and continued until 1880, in which year he removed to Mount Carmel. He followed the same line there until his demise. Mr. Keiser married Elizabeth Wolfgang, daughter of George Wolfgang, and she still resides in Mount Carmel, continuing the business formerly owned by her husband. Four children were born to them: Joseph A.; Missouri, who married Harry Haas; George H., of Mount Carmel; and Isaac N., of Akron, Ohio.

JOSEPH A. KEISER, son of Isaac R. Keiser, was born Feb. 10, 1862, in Shamokin, and there attended the public schools and Shamokin Academy, graduating from the latter institution. In 1879 he went to Joliet, Ill., where he spent some time, and returning home assisted his father in the grocery business which he had meantime established in Mount Carmel. He has since continued in this line, his location at the corner of Third and Maple streets being well known and well patronized. His excellent business methods and honorable dealing have gained him a large custom, which he retains by accommodating his patrons in every possible way. He is well known in various associations in the borough, being president of the school board at the present time, is a director of the Anthracite Building and Loan Association, member and chaplain of Mount Carmel Lodge, No. 378, F. & A. M., and member and recorder of the local organization of the Knights of Malta. He also belongs to

the P. O. S. of A., and is secretary of the Loyal Association. His activities have also extended to church life, Mr. Keiser being a leading member of the United Evangelical Association and at present serving as trustee of same. In political matters he is a Republican.

On April 6, 1886, Mr. Keiser married Alice J. Herb, daughter of Rudolph Herb, and they have one daughter, Emma E., who is a student at Bucknell University, member of the class of 1912.

GEORGE HENRY KEISER, son of Isaac R., was born in Shamokin, Pa., Nov. 3, 1867. He attended the public schools of Shamokin and afterward clerked in his father's store, moving with his parents to Mount Carmel where he continued in his father's employ until the latter's death, when his mother continued the business, which is conducted by the two sons, Joseph A. and George Henry.

Mr. Keiser was married May 28, 1890, to Ella H. Swank, daughter of Jacob Swank. Socially Mr. Keiser is a member of I. O. O. F. Lodge No. 1150, of Mount Carmel. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, and in politics is a Republican. He is a director of the People's Building and Loan Association.

HON. JOHN T. McMULLEN, of Shamokin, Northumberland county, present representative of his district in the State Legislature of Pennsylvania, is an employee of the Pennsylvania Railway Company and well known among his fellow workers as well as in local public affairs. He was born May 6, 1877, in Montour county, Pa., son of Samuel McMullen, who has become well known in both Montour and Northumberland counties in various connections.

Samuel McMullen was born in 1847 in Montour county, and during his early life became familiar with farm life. But when a young man he learned the carpenter's trade, which he has since followed. For a number of years he was engaged as a contractor at Danville, Montour county, employing six men, but since 1893 he has been carpenter foreman at the Natalie colliery, at Natalie, Northumberland county. He is a staunch Republican, has served as county commissioner and jury commissioner of his native county, and while a resident of Danville was prominent as an Odd Fellow, filling all the chairs in the local lodge. He is a member of the German Reformed Church. His wife, Mary Alice (Geist), is a daughter of David Geist, of Catawissa, Pa., and to them have been born eight children: John T.; Truman F., Florence C., David and M. Frances, all of whom reside with their parents at Natalie; and three who are deceased.

John T. McMullen received a public school education, attending the borough school at Danville for four years, and night school at Natalie for one year. When sixteen years old he commenced to

learn the carpenter's trade, which he followed for three years, subsequently finding employment about the coal mines. In 1900 he entered the employ of the Pennsylvania Railway Company, with which he has since been engaged at railroad work.

Mr. McMullen is a veteran of the Spanish-American war, in which he served as a member of Company E, 12th Pennsylvania Volunteers; he is a member of Aerie No. 534, F. O. E., at Shamokin, and of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, which he has served as secretary of the General Grievance committee since 1902. In politics he is a Republican and has been active in the local affairs of the party, on whose ticket he was elected Nov. 8, 1910, to represent his district in the State Legislature, his plurality being 260 votes. This was his first candidacy for county office. He is favorably regarded in the party and in his community, where he has many friends.

On June 14, 1898, Mr. McMullen married Fay E. Ditty, daughter of Thomas and Rebecca (Tailor) Ditty, whose ancestors were from Lower Mahanoy township, this county. Three children have been born to this union, namely: Ruth R., Thomas S. and Alice B. Mr. McMullen has made his home in the borough of Shamokin since 1900.

GEORGE W. HARTLEIN, of No. 430 West Pine street, Shamokin, has been secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America in District No. 9 since its organization, in 1899, his work covering four counties and about fifty-one thousand, two hundred mine workers. His long retention in the office is the best evidence of his satisfactory services. He is a native of Shamokin, born June 21, 1865, son of Joseph Hartlein and grandson of George Hartlein, and comes of old Berks county stock, the Hartleins or Hartlines having long been prominent in that section. The family is of German origin and has been a part of the substantial German element of Pennsylvania citizenship since the first half of the eighteenth century.

John Jacob Hartlein was born Sept. 8, 1699, in Saxony, Germany, son of Nicholas and Dorothea Hartlein, as indicated by the Hill Church records. On Sept. 28, 1726, he married Julia, daughter of John Christian and Appolonia Dressler, born July 4, 1694. They came to America in 1732, and settled in Earl township, Berks Co., Pa. To them were born six children: John Jacob and Jacob both died young; Margaret, born in 1729, married John ———; George was born in 1732; Anna Dorothea, born in 1734, died in 1736; Nicholas, born in 1736, died in 1741.

George Hartlein, son of John Jacob, was born in Saxony, Germany, in 1732, shortly before the emigration of his parents to the New World. In 1750 he was a taxable in District township, Berks county, as was also George, Jr. In 1755 he mar-