

BIOGRAPHICAL ANNALS  
OF  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA

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CONTAINING  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PROMINENT AND REPRESENTATIVE  
CITIZENS AND OF MANY OF THE EARLY  
SETTLED FAMILIES.

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ILLUSTRATED

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township, Cumberland county. The members of his family became substantial and respected citizens, namely: Jonas, Martin, George, John, Henry, J. D., Jane (wife of Benjamin Heilman), Elizabeth (wife of John B. Coover), and Fannie (wife of Mathew Bitner). All have passed away.

REV. AUSTIN A. KELLY, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, at Newville, Pa., and one of the earnest church workers in Cumberland county, as well as a devoted Christian man, was born on a farm in Adams county, Pa., June 4, 1870, son of James N. and Ellen (Harner) Kelly.

Patrick Kelly, great-grandfather of Rev. Austin A., was a native of Ireland, emigrated to America prior to the Revolutionary war, and settled in what is now Heidelberg township, York county, Pa. There he owned two farms and died at an advanced age. His children were John, Jacob, Patrick, James, Thomas (who settled in Botetourt county, Va.), Mrs. Nancy Bowman, Mrs. Sarah Dubbs, Mrs. Mary Millheim, and George W.

George W. Kelly, son of Patrick and grandfather of Rev. Austin A., was born in 1795, in York county, Pa. He was a farmer and miller by occupation, and settled in Carroll county, Md., where he met and married Mary Ann Williams, who was born June 15, 1800, in Frederick county, Md. She was the second daughter of William Williams and Rebecca Slife, whose other children were Elizabeth, and a son who served through the war of 1812. William Williams was a native of England and served through the Revolutionary war under George Washington. George W. Kelly and his wife had children as follows: Mrs. Sarah Morelock, Emanuel, John, George, James N. and Thomas. Mr. Kelly died in 1845,

at about the age of fifty, and his widow in 1884, aged eighty-four.

James Nathaniel Kelly, the father of our subject, was born Aug. 9, 1833, at Silver Run, Carroll county, Md., and was educated in an academy at Frederick City, Md., under Prof. Nathaniel Vernon, and at Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, Pa. After leaving school he taught for some time very successfully in Carroll county, Md., and York and Adams counties, Pa. For a time he was also clerk and salesman in a mercantile house in Maryland. On Sept. 6, 1864, Mr. Kelly enlisted as a private in the 209th P. V. I., participating in the battles of Fort Steadman and Petersburg, Va., and served until honorably discharged at the close of the war. In the spring of 1866 he removed to the Mansion Farm, which he purchased from the Mearing estate in Germany township, and there successfully engaged in farming and stock raising.

Mr. Kelly married, on Oct. 29, 1857, Ellen Harner, who was born March 2, 1835, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth (Mearing) Harner. To this union were born children as follows: Laura Ellen (died in infancy), Sarah L. (died in infancy), Emma Catherine, James Hamilton, Joseph Ellsworth, Eugene Sylvester and Austin Augustus. All of the family were members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Kelly was a staunch Democrat, and he was an upright and conscientious, self-made business man.

The primary education of Rev. Austin A. Kelly was received in the common schools and the college at Gettysburg, Pa., from which he was graduated in 1893; he then entered the seminary at the same place, from which he was graduated in 1895. In 1895 he was licensed at York, Pa., by the Synod of West Penn, to preach. Ordained

to the gospel ministry in Christ Lutheran Church, at Gettysburg, Pa., on Oct. 18, 1896, his first charge was Trindle Springs Lutheran Church, at Mechanicsburg, Pa., which charge he served until Oct. 1, 1899. That year he received and accepted a call to Newville, to succeed Rev. D. B. Floyd, at Zion's Lutheran Church. This church at Newville is a fine structure, with a seating capacity of six hundred, and is supplied with an excellent pipe organ and many new ideas in architecture and accommodations.

On Sept. 9, 1896, Mr. Kelly married Miss Mary Catherine Bushman, of Gettysburg, a daughter of Althedore and Lucinda (Benner) Bushman, and one son, George Benner, has been born of this marriage. Mrs. Kelly was educated at Irving College, Mechanicsburg.

The congregation of Mr. Kelly's church, which aggregates about 400, is a wealthy one, and he numbers among his people some of the most prominent of the county. He is recognized as one of the eloquent preachers of Cumberland county, and is pleasing in his pulpit manner, winning converts by his persuasive words as well as by his readings of the Scripture as taught by his Church.

JOHN C. NESBIT, one of the oldest educators in Cumberland county, where he has risen to the front rank in the profession, comes from good old English stock, the first settlers appearing early in the eighteenth century in York county.

John Nesbit, grandfather of John C. Nesbit, was a farmer by occupation. He died in York county at an advanced age.

John Creighton Nesbit, son of John, was born in 1803, and died in York county, near Rossville, at the age of eighty years. He married Julia Klinedinst, and they became

the parents of nine children: Elizabeth, who married A. P. Walker, a lawyer, and resides near Rossville; Lewis N., who married Kate Bushey, now deceased, and lives at Mt. Airy; George and Mary, deceased; John C., the fifth in the order of birth; Harrison, who married Mary Sutton, and lived in York county, and who was accidentally killed at the age of sixty-three; Joseph B., who married Mrs. Mary Brinton, and lives at Harrisburg, where he is foreman in the repairing department of the Harrisburg Traction Company; William, who married Tillie Wollett, and lives at Mount Airy; James W., who married Bessie Shaw, and lives at Mondovi, Wis., where he is superintendent of the public schools.

John C. Nesbit was born in Warrington township, near Round Top. After receiving a thorough schooling, at the age of eighteen he started teaching school in his native township. At the age of twenty-seven he went to the United States College of Business and Finance at New Haven, Conn., and upon his graduation there he received a first degree diploma. Returning to York county he remained but a short time, and then removed to Cumberland county, where he resumed his old vocation of teaching. In 1871 he was called to West Virginia, where he taught school for one year, at the end of which time he returned to Cumberland county, and taught in the Whitehall Orphan School, continuing there for three years. He then returned to Lisburn, and at that place and his present home, in Upper Allen, has since taught, being at the present still actively employed.

The only time that Mr. Nesbit allowed anything to interfere with his long service of teaching, some forty-five years, was in 1864, when on Feb. 22nd of that year, he enlisted at Harrisburg in Battery C, the 3d Penn.

come to Carlisle and visit his daughter, generally traveling on horseback. Being a very old man, these long trips were a heavy tax upon his strength, and after one of them he fell sick and died at the home of his daughter in Carlisle. His remains are buried in the Old Graveyard.

By his second marriage James Loudon had issue as follows: Matthew, Mary Matilda, James Augustus, Edward P., Charles Ogilby, William, Thomas C. and William C. Matthew was born May 18, 1838, and is living in Mechanicsburg. Mary Matilda, born in 1840, died in 1891. James Augustus, born March 5, 1843, died Sept. 11, 1861. Edward P., born Dec. 10, 1847, is employed as a clerk at the Pennsylvania railroad depot in Pittsburg. Charles Ogilby, born March 3, 1849, was last heard of sixteen years ago at Pittsburg, when he was on the way to some point in Ohio. William died in infancy. Thomas C., born July 14, 1852, is working as an upholsterer in the Pennsylvania railroad car shops at Altoona. He married a Miss Reed, of Petersburg, Adams county.

WILLIAM C. LOUDON is the third child of James Loudon bearing the name William. He was born April 10, 1854, and learned the bookbinding trade, and with the exception of six months at the Carlisle Indian Training School as clerk, and eight years at his trade in Altoona, Pa., has spent all his life in Carlisle. He is now carrying on bookbinding on West Pomfret street, Carlisle. In 1896 he married Martha Ellen Claudy, of Carlisle.

James Loudon, the father of this large family, was a man of intelligence and progressive ideas and a worthy citizen. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Carlisle and long superintendent of its

Sunday-school. He was installed an elder of the church on Nov. 4, 1832, and continued an elder until his death, which occurred on July 8, 1880. His wife, Elizabeth Ann Loudon, died in March, 1882, and the remains of James Loudon, of his two wives, and of seven of his children, are buried in the Old Graveyard at Carlisle.

#### MELVIN L. DUNKLEBERGER.

According to family traditions five Dunkleberger brothers came to America about the same time and settled in Berks county, Pa. The exact time of their coming is not known, but circumstances indicate that it must have been at a comparatively early date. Two of these five brothers, John and Solomon, migrated to the upper end of what is now Perry county, where they lived for the rest of their lives. John married Mary Swartz, of Saville township, and followed the occupation of farming in the adjoining district of Spring township. John and Mary (Swartz) Dunkleberger, among other children, had a son John, who married a Mary Koser and also engaged at farming in Spring township. He died near Falling Spring in 1843, while yet comparatively a young man, and was buried in the graveyard of the Reformed Church near Landisburg. His widow, Mary (Koser) Dunkleberger, afterward married William Stambaugh.

John Dunkleberger (2) and Mary Koser, his wife, had issue as follows: Sarah, Samuel, Henry, Elias, Catharine and Savilla. Sarah married Eli Stambaugh; Samuel married (first) Katy Lichtenberger, and (second) Mary Sheibley; Henry removed to the West; Catharine married Jacob Stutzman, and Savilla married Jonas Beistline.

Elias Dunkleberger, the fourth child of John and Mary (Koser) Dunkleberger, was born April 12, 1839, in Spring township,

Perry county. He grew to young manhood in that section, receiving the benefit of its public schools and a good training at the avocation of farming. In the year 1866 he came to Cumberland county and hired with Jacob Herman, a farmer, near New Kingston, Silver Spring township, and was so well pleased with the locality and its people that he has remained there ever since. He engaged at farming until in recent years, when he relinquished farming and removed to a pleasant home in the town of New Kingston, where he is now living practically retired from the more strenuous duties of life. In 1866 he married Catharine Jane Orris, a member of one of the old and substantial families of that part of the county. Catharine Jane Orris was a daughter of David and Susan (Senseman) Orris, and Susan Senseman was a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Haines) Senseman, who came to Cumberland county from Cocalico township, Lancaster county, early in the last century.

To the union of Elias Dunkleberger and Catharine Jane Orris the following children were born: Minnie S., Melvin L., Levan H., and Addie.

Melvin L. Dunkleberger, the second child and the special subject of this sketch, was born Jan. 8, 1870, on the farm near New Kingston. He was reared on the farm and educated in the public schools and at the West Chester State Normal School. Later he took a course at Eastman's Business College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., from which institution he graduated in the summer of 1889. In the fall of that same year he went into the employ of the Carlisle Shoe Company, at Carlisle, first in the cutting department and later as shipping clerk. He continued with this company until in November, 1891, and in that time learned much

concerning shoe manufacturing and of business in general. In January, 1892, he became bookkeeper for the Lindner Shoe Company, of Carlisle, in which he was one of the original stockholders. He continued as bookkeeper for this company for more than ten years and by his faithful and efficient service contributed materially to the success of this flourishing industry. In 1901 he was promoted to the position of secretary and in January, 1904, to secretary and treasurer for the Lindner Company, in which capacity he served until December, 1904, when he resigned.

Exacting as have been his business cares and duties, he manages to give some time to the promotion of the industrial welfare of the community in general, as is evinced in the fact that he has been a member of the Carlisle Board of Trade and treasurer of that body ever since its organization. He is an intelligent, public-spirited citizen and one of the town's active and progressive young business men. Fraternally he is likewise prominent and influential, being a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 260, F. & A. M.; St. John's Chapter, No. 171; St. John's Commandery, No. 9, K. T.; Carlisle Lodge, K. of P.; Zembo Temple, Mystic Shrine, of Harrisburg, and Silver Spring Lodge, No. 598, I. O. O. F., of which he is treasurer. He has passed nearly all the chairs of the various orders to which he belongs and takes a great interest in fraternal matters in general.

On Dec. 10, 1891, Melvin L. Dunkleberger was married to Miss Almeda Senseman, daughter of the late Daniel and Susannah Senseman, of Silver Spring township. To them one child has been born, Hazel Theresa. They belong to the First Reformed Church of Carlisle, of which they both are very active workers, Mr. Dunkle-

berger being secretary of the Consistory. Since 1896 they have been living in a beautiful home at No. 126 West Pomfret street, Carlisle, where all their many friends are made welcome.

J. A. SHETRON, farmer, is a resident of Carlisle, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM PENN ECKELS was the sixth child of Francis and Isabella (Cledenin) Eckels, as appears from other Eckels history recorded elsewhere in this volume. He was born Aug. 13, 1826, in the northwest part of Silver Spring township, on a property now owned by the estate of the late William Jacobs. He was reared on the farm and his education was limited to the public schools of his day. By the time he was old enough to go to school his father lived upon a large farm on the south side of the Conedoguin creek, in what was long known as "Coffman's Point," and from there he was sent to his first school, which was located on the north side of the turnpike just east of where it crosses the stream known as the Silver Spring. In 1835 his father moved to a farm he purchased a short distance due north of New Kingston, and he then for several years attended a school located near where was Crider's Mill. After the public school system went into operation a log school house was built on the top of the hill a little to the north and in easy sight of New Kingston, and he then for several years more attended school there.

When he reached the age of nineteen, William P. Eckels apprenticed himself to the carpenter's trade with Isaac Rhodes, who then lived in the vicinity of New Kingston. On Jan. 2, 1851, soon after completing his trade, he was married to Anna Hartman, of

Middlesex, then North Middleton, township. Anna Hartman was born June 9, 1832, and was a daughter of Christian and Anna (Gantz) Hartman, who in 1837 came from the vicinity of Elizabethtown, Lancaster county, and bought from Weirich Bentz the farm in Middlesex township, now owned by their son, Eli Hartman, where they lived the rest of their lives. Christian Hartman died in November, 1877, in the seventy-eighth year of his age; Anna (Gantz) Hartman, his wife, died in November, 1861, aged fifty-five years, and their remains are buried in the Longsdorf graveyard, near New Kingston Station.

After his marriage William P. Eckels lived in New Kingston and worked at carpentering and building for a period of about fifteen years. Among the houses he built in that town is the first brick school-house erected in that town, which is still standing and in use for school purposes. In 1860 he bought from James Armstrong a farm adjoining that which his father bought from James Armstrong's father, John Armstrong, in 1835. He then relinquished carpentering and engaged at farming until in 1867, when he made sale of his stock, rented his farm and moved to a smaller home on the hill a little way to the northeast of New Kingston. Here he lived until in the spring of 1876, when he resumed farming, and continued at it until 1880, when he again sold off his stock and finally retired from farming. He then moved to New Kingston where he has been living comfortably and contented ever since.

To William P. and Anna (Hartman) Eckels three children were born, viz.: Emma Catharine, Samuel Edgar and Mary Elizabeth. Emma C. was born Feb. 1, 1852, in the town of New Kingston. She re-