

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, Comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry, Pennsylvania, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers 1897

**William Baker**, Donnallys Mills, Perry County, Pa., son of **Samuel** and **Elizabeth (Sheibley) Baker**, was born at Swartz Mills, near Landisburg, Perry County, February 27, 1827. **Samuel Baker** was a native of Pfoutz Valley, in Perry County, but after his father's death went with his mother to **Swartz Mills**. **Mrs. Baker** was married again to **Mr. Swartz**, and had one child, **John Swartz**, who married **Miss Rice**; both are deceased; the mother also died, and is buried at Marklesville.

**Samuel Baker** was educated in the common schools, and was a farmer of acknowledged superiority. He cultivated **Ewings'** farm for some time, then removed to **Bowers Hill**, then back again to **Ewings'** farm. About 1851, he removed to Buckwheat Valley, in Tuscarora Township, and bought a farm upon which he resided for the rest of his life. He was a Democrat, decided in his convictions, and filled several township offices. He married **Elizabeth Sheibley**, whose grandfather was one of three brothers, emigrants from Germany, who all at first lived near Landisburg; two of the brothers removing to other localities, left **Mrs. Baker's** ancestor the only representative of the family in the neighborhood. Their children are: **Isabella (Mrs. Henry Kyner)**, died, leaving two children; **William; Abraham**, of Oak Grove Furnace, Pa., was a soldier in the late war, and married a **Miss Moses**; **Samuel**, also enlisted in the Union army, was shot in the battle of the Wilderness, and brought to Washington, D. C, where he died, and is buried in the Marklesville cemetery; **Peter**, of the vicinity of Olinda, Perry County, a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, married **Miss Kell**; **Catherine (Mrs. James Latchford)**, resides near Marklesville; **Joseph** and **James**, twins, both served in the late war, the former married **Miss Kepner**, and resides in Altoona, Pa., and the latter married **Miss Frye**, and lives on a part of the homestead in Buckwheat Valley; and **Elizabeth**. This family presents a noble war record, five of its sons living enlisted under the Union flag, one of whom laid down his life for the preservation of the Union. The parents are both deceased, **Mrs. Baker** having survived her husband for some years; they are buried in the cemetery at Marklesville. They were members of the United Brethren Church.

Having taken the usual course of studies in the common schools of his township, **William Baker** became engaged in farming and in the manufacture of shingles, etc. He had no capital, and was entirely dependent upon his own exertions; but as the time for his marriage approached, he had saved about \$300, on which to begin housekeeping. Thinking to increase this modest store, he speculated in wheat, was unfortunate, and lost all the fruits of his economy. Nothing daunted, however, the young couple set out to make their way together, although the bridegroom had scarcely more than enough to pay the wedding fee.

**William Baker** was married, March 15, 1853, to **Louisa Reiter**, of Oak Grove Furnace, near which place they resided for four years, and then removed to **Peter Shaffer's** farm in Shaffers Valley, which **Mr. Baker** cultivated for two years. They next passed, a year on the homestead in Buckwheat Valley; then three years on the **Deweese** farm; and then **Mr. Baker** purchased a part of the property on which they now live. Upon his purchase there stood a dwelling and a shoe shop; here he did shoemaking for two or three years, and then built a store room, and laid in a

general stock. He has built up a substantial and profitable business, and has admitted his son, **Harry**, to partnership in the enterprise. **Mr. Baker**, having added to his original purchase of land, now owns a good farm of some seventy or eighty acres. He is a Republican, strongly attached to his party; has served as assessor for the township, but never accepted any other office.

The children of **Mr. and Mrs. William Baker** are: **Harry**, born February 19, 1854, his father's partner in business; **Elizabeth Ann (Mrs. William C. Leonard)**, born September 1, 1855, married November 8, 1877, resides in Juniata County, Pa.; **George W.**, of Omaha, Neb., born August 2, 1857, married **Susan Dana**; **James**, born July 8, 1859, married **Annie Swartz**, resides near Bloomfield, Perry County; **Charles**, born June 12, 1861, married **Annie Krist**, lives in Perry County; **Mary Alice (Mrs. Dr. Flickmyer)**, born June 10, 1863, and resides in Perry County; **John Wesley**, of Newport, Pa., born August 18, 1866, married **Bertha Rice**; **Drusilla (Mrs. Edward Mickey)**, of Harrisburg, Pa., born August 17, 1868; **Ellen Nora (Mrs. Frank Baker)**, of Donnallys Mills, born October 12, 1870; **Clara M. (Mrs. John Baker)**, resides in Perry County, born June 3, 1873; and **Gertrude (Mrs. Charles Orms)**, of Juniata County, born August 18, 1876.

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