

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

James Bell, Keystone, Perry County, Pa., was born in Wheatfield Township, Perry County, March 8, 1842, son of the late **Hugh** and **Jane (Bell) Bell**. All of his ancestors were Irish. **Hugh Bell** and his **wife** were both natives of County Down, Ireland, and came to America about 1835. They became residents of Wheatfield Township about 1840, and subsequently removed to Penn Township, Perry County, where they passed the remainder of their lives. **Jane Bell** died in November, 1870; her husband survived her almost twelve years, dying March 8, 1882. Of their five children, four are living: **Agnes (Mrs. William Barnett)**, of Dakota County, Neb.; **James; Isabella (Mrs. David Boyd)**, of Duncannon, Pa.; and **John H.**, of Rye Township.

As his parents removed to Penn Township while **James Bell** was but an infant, he grew up in that district, and there received his preliminary education. He was afterwards for two or three terms a student at the academy in New Bloomfield, Pa. The knowledge thus acquired, he systematized and fixed more perfectly in his memory by teaching for three terms in Penn and Rye Townships. But most of his life has been spent in the lumber business, to which, during later years, he has added that of agriculture. **Mr. Bell** has been for three terms a school director, besides having served as county surveyor, and in Penn Township as tax collector. He is a member of Marysville Lodge, No. 458, F. and A. M. He votes the Democratic ticket.

James Bell was married in Rye Township, January 2, 1868, to **Susan B.**, daughter of **William** and **Margaret (Messinger) Sloop**. Their children are: **Hugh W.; Margaret; Jane; Arthur**, who died in childhood; **Archie; George; Catherine; Isabella; Agnes;** and **Susan**. **Mr. Bell** and his family attend the Evangelical Church. **William Sloop, Mrs. Bell's** father, was born in Rye Township, and was a life-long resident there. He was a cooper, but gave his principal attention to husbandry. His wife, **Margaret (Messinger) Sloop**, was a native of York County, Pa., but passed the greater part of her life in Rye Township. She died December 4, 1863, honored and beloved by a large circle of friends. **Mr. Sloop** died December 20, 1891.

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