

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of Dauphin County, Chambersburg, Pa., J. M. Runk and Company, 1896.

Bell, Thornton A., painter, was born in Duncannon, Perry County, Pa., May 8, 1850; son of **Thomas G.** and **Elizabeth (Camp) Bell**, natives of that county. The father was a painter and came to Dauphin County in 1853, located in Harrisburg and followed his occupation until 1865. In 1861 he enlisted for three years in the First Pennsylvania reserves as private and was appointed fife major and served three years. **Thornton A.** came to Harrisburg with his parents when he was two years of age, and subsequently removed to Carlisle, where he was reared and educated in the public schools.

He learned the painter's trade with his father, and returned to Harrisburg in 1873, where he has since followed his occupation. He is one of the principal contracting painters in the city and has been employed on the State work and other important contracts. In his political views **Mr. Bell** is in agreement with the Republican Party. In 1880 he enlisted in Company D, Eighth regiment, City Grays and was made bugler for the company, and for two years previous to his enlistment he had served in the drum corps of the City Grays. He was transferred to General Gobin's staff, Third brigade, and was appointed chief musician of the brigade. In February 14, 1870, he enlisted in the Governor's Troop, National Guard, served five years and was honorably discharged. **Mr. Bell** is a member of the State Capital Lodge, No. 70, I. O. O. F. He was married, in 1878, to Miss **Flora B. Eichelberger**, of Cumberland County. Their children are: **Thomas J.**, **Frank Hunter**, **Edward Thornton**, **Henry Andrew**, **Charles Edwin**, **Wesley Harrison**, **Clara Jane**, and **Mary Bell**. **Mr. Bell** is a member of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church and is chairman of the entertainment committee of the Men's Bible class.

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