

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

John A. Bentsel, Grier Point, Perry County, Pa., was born July 22, 1858, in Perry County. He is a son of **William** and **Sarah (Fair) Bentsel**. His grandfather, **John Bentsel**, was a contractor and bridge builder of York County, who came to Perry County and settled near Shermansdale, in Carroll Township. He was one of those who built the first bridge across Shermans Creek at Shermansdale. **John Bentsel** was married and was the father of the following children: **Sarah (Mrs. George Finical)**; **John**; **Peter**; **(Mrs. Sunday)**; **William**; **Mary (Mrs. David Shatto)**; **Margaret**; **Henry**. They are all deceased except **Mrs. Finical**. The maternal grandparents of **John Bentsel**, **Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Fair**, were natives of Perry County. **Mr. Fair** was a farmer all his life, and one of the early settlers of the county. **Conrad Fair** married **Susan**, daughter of **John Finical**. Their children are: **Sarah (Mrs. William Bentsel)**; **Margaret (Mrs. Charles Seibert)**; and **Jeremiah**, deceased. **Mr. and Mrs. Fair** were of German ancestry. They were both members of the Lutheran Church; both died at an advanced age.

William Bentsel was a native of York County; when he was four years old his parents removed to Perry County. He was reared on a farm. After attaining his majority he went to California, and spent eight years as a miner. He had learned masonry, and after his return from California, worked at his trade for a few years, but was obliged to give it up on account of his health. He then farmed from the time of his marriage until his death. He had also been engaged in the huckstering business for a few years. **Mr. Bentsel** served the township for several years as supervisor. **William Bentsel** was married to **Sarah**, daughter of **Conrad** and **Susan (Finical) Fair**. Their children are: **John A.**; **Wilson**; **Ida (Mrs. John James)**; **Ervin H.**; **Annie**, deceased; **James**, died in 1891, aged thirty; **William**, who was accidentally shot while gunning, December 23, 1892, at the age of twenty-eight, had married **Lizzie Pike**, of Kansas City, who is also dead. **Mr. Bentsel** was a member of the United Brethren Church. He died in 1874, aged fifty-two. **Mrs. Bentsel** resides on the homestead in Carroll Township. She is an earnest member of the United Brethren Church.

John A. Bentsel attended the public schools of Perry County, until he reached the age of fifteen. He then worked on the farm with his father for a year. Then he went to the mountain and worked at lumbering until he reached the age of twenty-three; at this time he began the lumbering business for himself, in which he continued until 1892. In 1883, he spent seven months visiting in Minnesota, Dakota and Iowa. In 1892, **Mr. Bentsel** bought his present farm. Besides farming he deals in railroad ties, and is also an extensive dealer in stock. **Mr. Bentsel** is a Republican; he has been elected to various township offices, but declined to serve, as he prefers to devote his time to business.

John A. Bentsel was married January 17, 1884, to **Laura**, daughter of **John K.** and **Maria (McAllister) Gaudy**. They have one son, **William H.**, a very promising youth. **Mrs. Bentsel's** father, **John K. Gaudy**, was a native of York County, but came to Perry County early in life, and settled in Carroll Township. He was a stone-mason and worked at his trade all his life, though at the time of his death he was farming. **Mr. Gaudy** enlisted in the late war, in 1861, and served three years; he then re-enlisted, and was honorably discharged in 1865. He was one of the first

men from Carroll Township to respond to the call of his country for soldiers. **John K. Gaudy** was married to **Maud**, daughter of **David** and **Mary (Long) McAllister**, of Perry County. Their children are: **Mary (Mrs. David Baxter)**; **Laura (Mrs. Bentsel)**; **Elizabeth (Mrs. Elmer Buchan)**, of Iowa; **David**, of California; **Annie (Mrs. Lincoln Dunkleberger)**; **Lewis**, of Iowa; **Susan**; **Maria**; **Maggie**; **Pearl**; **John**, died February 25, 1893, aged twenty years and eight months. **Mr. Gaudy** died February 27, 1894, aged fifty- seven years. **Mrs. Gaudy** resides in Carroll Township. The paternal grandparents of **Mrs. Bentsel** were natives of York County. Their children are: **Nancy (Mrs. William Brown)**, of Carlisle; **Susan (Mrs. John Adams)**, of Carlisle; **Henry**, of Harrisburg; **Ellen (Mrs. John Shatto)**, of Mechanicsburg; **Lewis**; **Kate (Mrs. Reuben Sailor)**, of Carlisle; **William**, deceased; **Samuel**, deceased. **Mrs. Bentsel's** maternal grandparents, **Mr. and Mrs. David McAllister**, were natives of Perry County; they farmed all their lives. Their children are: **Christian**; **John**; **David**; **Maria (Mrs. John K. McAllister)**; **Margaret**, married first to **Samuel Martin**, and now widow of **John Barrick**; **Frank**; **Eliza**, deceased; **Annie (Mrs. Harry Holmes)**, deceased. **Mr. McAllister** died in 1872, aged sixty years. **Mrs. McAllister** has reached the venerable age of eighty.

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