

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 Black, farmer, Newport, Perry County, Pa., son of **Robinson** and **Eliza (Noble) Black**, was born in Raccoon Valley, Perry County, February 13, 1824. It is not known whether his grandfather, **John Black** (1), was born in this country or in Great Britain. The earliest knowledge his descendants have of him is that he settled on a farm above Jacksburg, which is now owned by a **Mr. Hartman**. At a later date he settled in Raccoon Valley, and there bought three farms. The Indians were still in that section of the country in great numbers, were always troublesome to the pioneers, and frequently were hostile. For the protection and safety of the new settlers, a fort was at that time built near Jacksburg. Here **Mr. Black** passed his life and here he died at about sixty years of age. He married **Miss Robinson**, a native of Pennsylvania, who survived him some years. Their children are: **Robinson**, died in Oliver Township; **James**, died in Bloomfield, Pa.; **Samuel**, died in Raccoon Valley; **Jonathan**, died young, in Raccoon Valley; **Jane**, married **David Meredith**, both deceased; **Molly**, married **Mr. Ramsay**, both deceased; and **Rebecca**, married **Mr. Mateer**, both deceased. **Mr. Black** was an old time Whig. In religious faith and communion he was a Seceder.

Robinson Black, father of **John Black**, was born in Raccoon Valley, Perry County, Pa., in 1779. His education was received in subscription schools, and he was reared a farm boy. Upon becoming of age he occupied and cultivated one of his father's farms in Raccoon Valley. He was a Democrat. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Church. On January 5, 1821, he was married to **Eliza Noble**. Their children are: **Mary**, born in 1822, died at about sixteen years of age; **John**; **Rebecca**, died August 25, 1893, aged sixty-five years, was the wife of **John Smith**, deceased; **Grace**, died in childhood; **Martha Ann**, widow of **Robert Monroe**, resides in Newport, Pa.; **Adeline (Mrs. Joseph P. Smith)**, of York, Neb.; **Elizabeth (Mrs. W. W. Lesh)**, resided in Washington, D. C, where she died; **James B.**, of Oliver Township; **Margaret Jane (Mrs. Charles Swab)**, of Perry, Ia. In 1869, **Mr. and Mrs. R. Black** visited their two daughters living at Buda, Bureau County, Ill., and they remained two years. **Mr. Black** was taken sick there and brought home, and died in 1871. His wife died July 27, 1887, aged eighty-seven years.

John Black first attended subscription schools, and later the public schools. His educational opportunities were slender, as he was in school only two months out of the twelve. There was much land to be cleared on his grandfather's farm, and his assistance in this work was often called for. He and his wife lived for a year after their marriage on his father's farm; for the next two years, they rented and occupied the **Josiah Pickes** farm, in Oliver Township. They then rented a farm in Saville Township for five years, after which they bought a tract of seventy acres, lived one year upon it, and then sold it, and bought of **Charles Sweezy** a farm of sixty-nine acres, which they still own and cultivate. They are successful and prosperous and are very highly esteemed. **Mr. Black** is a staunch Democrat; he is active and prominent in local politics, and has served as supervisor and as school director for several terms.

John Black was married November 27, 1856, to **Sarah Jane**, daughter of **David** and **Margaret (Rider) Pool**, the former a native of Carlisle, Pa., the latter of Newport, Pa. The children of **Mr. and Mrs. Black** are: **James**, died aged six weeks; **Mary Jane (Mrs. Charles Wilson)**, of

Harrisburg, Pa.; **Maggie**, died aged seventeen months; **Anna B.**, married **Frank Bair**, resides in Buffalo Township, Perry County, Pa.; **Charles E.**, born in Oliver Township, Perry County, Pa., November 6, 1868, was brought up on the farm and educated in the public schools, went west in February, 1895, on a tour of observation, intending to settle at some point which promised well for business, but not finding a favorable opening, returned the following July, and in August, accepted a position as attendant in the State Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburg, Pa., but was taken sick and returned to his home, where he has remained up to the time of this writing; and **William C.**, fireman of the Pennsylvania Railroad, residing at Harrisburg, Pa.

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