

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 J. Black, machinist, Duncannon, Perry County, Pa., was born in the same town in which he now resides, September 11, 1848. He is a son of **James** and **Margaret Jane (Allison) Black**. **James Black** died in 1876; **Mrs. Black** still lives in Duncannon, at the advanced age of seventy-six. All of **Mr. Black's** ancestors were of the hardy and industrious Scotch-Irish race. His paternal grandfather resided for many years at Halifax, Dauphin County, Pa., but at an early date removed to Duncannon. **James Black**, father of **William J.**, was a gunsmith; he resided in Duncannon from boyhood to the time of his death. **Mr.** and **Mrs. James Black** had six children: **two** daughters, who died in infancy, and four sons: **Thomas J.**, of Philadelphia; **Archibald Allison**, of Altoona; **William J.**; and **John**, of Altoona. Except about two years, the entire life of **William J. Black** has been passed in Duncannon, but his fame as a master mechanic has spread among the trade throughout the nation.

He was educated in the public schools of his native town, and learned his trade, that of machinist, with the Duncannon Iron Company. For thirty-two years he has been continuously in the employ of this company. During this time, **Mr. Black** has come to be recognized as one of the most intelligent and thorough mechanics on the continent, second to none in any State. He built and set up the nail making machine that was placed on exhibition by the Duncannon Iron Company at the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, in Philadelphia. In connection with J. C. Hawley, he is the patentee of an underground trolley for street railways that may, ere long, make a complete revolution in the modes of city transit. **Mr. Black** is a Democrat. He is a member of Perry Council, No. 57, O. U. A. M.

William J. Black was married at Duncannon, June 10, 1873, to **Sarah Ellen**, daughter of **Joseph M.** and **Margaret Shatto**. They have two children: **Charles A.**; and **Margaret E.** **Mr. Black** and his family are consistent members of the Presbyterian Church; he is a ruling elder in the congregation, of which he has for a long time been a devoted adherent.

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