

Twentieth Century History of Clearfield County Pennsylvania and Representative Citizens By Roland D. Swoope, Jr., Published By Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., F. J. Richmond, President, C. R. Arnold, Secretary And Treasurer; Chicago, Ill., 1911



Amos Bonsall, a retired farmer, residing in Brady Township, Clearfield County, Pa., on his valuable farm of 161 acres, near Troutville, is one of the most venerable residents of this section and one of the most highly esteemed. He has spent almost his entire life in Brady Township but was born in Perry County, Pa., August 31, 1822, and was brought here when two years, two months and sixteen days old. His parents were **Benjamin** and **Maria (Fowler) Bonsall**.

Benjamin Bonsall was a tanner in his early manhood, in Perry County, where he also cleared up considerable land and engaged in farming. In 1824 he brought his family to Clearfield County and bought a farm in Brady Township, near Luthersburg, where he spent the remainder of his life. **Benjamin Bonsall** and his wife and youngest son **Reuben** died within six weeks. They were the parents of eleven children, as follows: **Rebecca, John, Jackson, Sarah, Amos, Jane, Emily, Joseph, Anna Maria, Reuben** and **Louisa**, the last named being the wife of **Adam Foust** of DuBois. She and her brother **Amos** are the only survivors of this large family.

Amos Bonsall had but meager school advantages in his youth. The family was a growing one and there was a great deal of necessary work to be done on the farm and very early **Mr. Bonsall** and his older brothers, **John** and **Jackson**, were able to be of great assistance to their father. Farming in the summer time and lumbering in the winter seasons in large degree filled up the measure of **Mr. Bonsall's** time prior to his marriage, after which he left the homestead and bought a farm of fifty-two acres at Coal Hill. After clearing one-half of that land he sold it and bought the farm on which he still resides, it having previously been the property of his father-in-law, **Jacob Kuntz**. **Mr. Bonsall** paid \$1,300 for the 161 acres, which was then under laid with coal which he subsequently sold for \$87.50 per acre. He also realized a large sum from the sale of timber. In 1857 he built his comfortable farm-house. Recently he has disposed of his interests to his son **Jackson Bonsall**, with whom he now resides.

On January 25, 1849, **Mr. Bonsall** was married to **Miss Catherine Kuntz**, who was born in Germany and came to America with her parents in childhood. She lived to be eighty years of age. **Mr. and Mrs. Bonsall** had ten children: three died in infancy; the others were: **Jacob L., Susanna** (deceased), **Sarah** (deceased); **Mary**, wife of **Jonas Peifer**; **Vina**, wife of **George H. Weber**, and **Jackson**. **Mr. Bonsall** has a number of grandchildren and even great-grandchildren and takes much pleasure in viewing such a vigorous lot of descendants. For many years **Mr. Bonsall** has not taken much interest in public matters although he never fails to cast his vote for the candidates of the Democratic Party. In earlier years, however, he was considered one of the reliable men when it came to appointments to office and it is related that in 1848, against his own wishes, he was made constable of Brady Township and while serving in that capacity it became his duty to take Lorrin Solliman to Clearfield, on a charge of murder. It created a great excitement, as that was the first murder case ever tried in the county. **Mr. Bonsall** is a valued member of the Lutheran Church.