

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

Simon S. Charles, Liverpool, Perry County, Pa., son of **Sebastian** and **Mary Magdalena (Long) Charles**, was born on the farm which he now owns, in Liverpool Township, Perry County, August 11, 1836, and is of English and German descent. His great grandfather, **Christian Charles**, came from England to the American colonies long before the Revolution, and settled in Lancaster County, where he married a lady of German ancestry. He was a farmer. Two of his family, **Christian Charles, Jr.**, and **George Charles**, "went west" from Lancaster County, as far as the vicinity of Shippensburg, Pa., where they remained for some time, and married. They subsequently took up a large tract of land in Buffalo Township, Perry County, which they developed into fine farms. The land is still in the possession of their descendants. **Christian Charles, Jr.**, was a soldier of the Revolution. He was of the Lutheran denomination. He married **Miss Moore**, and had children: **George; John; Sebastian; Simon; Jacob; Elizabeth (Mrs. Ulsh)**, and **Mary (Mrs. Thomas Williamson)**. All are deceased. The third son, **Sebastian Charles**, was born in Buffalo Township in 1803, received an ordinary education, and was brought up as a farmer.

In 1826, he purchased the farm now owned by **Mr. S. S. Charles**. It was a tract of woodland, but the old tough trees were no discouragement to the stout heart and strong, willing arm of the young farmer. He built him a log house in the wood, and soon had a good part of his land cleared and under cultivation. It measures sixty-eight acres, and is now nearly all arable. He was well-known, and well liked; he was a member of the Lutheran Church, as was also his wife, **Mary Magdalena (Long) Charles**. Their children are: **Elizabeth**, married **Joseph Charles**, a second cousin, emigrated in 1851 to Missouri, where she died; **Susan**, deceased, went to Missouri with her sister, and there married **William B. Jones**, a steamboat captain, who survives her; **Simon S.**; **Leah**, resides in Harrisburg, Pa.; **Mary (Mrs. William L. Funk)**, of Liverpool Township; and **Hannah E.**, married **George C. Murray**, a member of the Harrisburg police force. **Sebastian Charles** died July 31, 1846.

In the boyhood of **Simon S. Charles**, there stood on the farm of his uncle, **Jacob Ulsh**, an old log school house. To this unpretending place, open for only three months of the year, in the winter, **Simon**, with the other young people of the neighborhood, went to receive instruction in the necessary branches of an English education. **Simon Charles** possessing an earnest and inquiring mind, made the best of his slender opportunities. He managed to find time to attend school until he had attained his majority, although he had more of care and responsibility resting upon him than is usual with boys in their teens. He was but nine years of age when his father died, and at thirteen, he took charge of the farm, and managed it with very encouraging success. He was the only son, with his mother and five sisters, at once depending upon and aiding his efforts. **Simon S. Charles** was married, June 10, 1860, to **Mary Leiter**, of Greenwood Township, daughter of **John W.** and **Elizabeth (Snoke) Leiter**.

Leaving his home and his young wife for the defense of the Union, he enlisted, October 10, 1862, at Harrisburg, in Company E, One Hundred and Seventy-third Pennsylvania Volunteers, as a private. He had the offer of a lieutenantcy, but modestly declined the rank. His captain was

Henry Charles, a cousin. The regiment went into camp at Norfolk, Va., and was next ordered to Suffolk, where it was engaged in skirmishing. Sometime later, it was ordered to Washington, D. C., and then marched to Gettysburg, but arrived too late to take part in the great battle there; following up General Lee, a skirmish occurred at Chester Gap. The time of enlistment having expired, **Mr. Charles's** regiment was discharged August 17, 1863. He at once returned home and resumed his agricultural labors, to which he has since devoted his exclusive attention. At one time, he owned and operated two boats on the canal, but placed them under the charge of other persons.

Mr. Charles is a staunch Republican, but has always declined office. He is not active politically, not thinking it right to influence the votes of others. He is fond of reading, giving his preference to the Scriptures and to standard authors; having a retentive memory, he quotes freely, especially from the Bible, and is interesting and entertaining in conversation. Although not a member of any church, he tries to live according to the dictates of his conscience, and is interested in Christian doctrine. He believes that the seventh day of the week should still be kept as the Sabbath, and supports this belief from the Scriptures.

The children of **Simon S.** and **Mary (Leiter) Charles** are: **William Edmund**, a farmer of Vernon County, Mo., to which State he emigrated in the spring of 1885; **George C.**, at home; **Simon S., Jr.**, went to Vernon County, Mo., in the spring of 1890, and has married; **John Austin**, at home; **Mary Ellen (Mrs. Elmer Reiber)**, of Liverpool Township; **Sarah C. (Mrs. John Foster)**, of Wiconisco Township, Dauphin County, Pa.; **Cora Alice (Mrs. George Kough)**, of Liverpool, Pa.; **Susan E.**, deceased; and **Ida E.**, deceased. In 1872 **Mr. Charles** visited his two sisters in Vernon County, Mo., and remained two months and a half.

The name **Charles** was originally spelled **Carles** by the German ancestors, and subsequently changed to its present way of spelling.

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