



Michael Coldren

Michael Coldren, Walker Township, Juniata County, Pa., was born January 17, 1829, in Walker Township. He is a son of **Samuel** and **Fanny (Sprigle) Coldren**. **Samuel Coldren** was born in Lancaster County, and there learned milling, which he followed also in Juniata County, after his removal thither. He spent the latter part of his life as a day laborer. He married **Miss Fannie Sprigle**, a native of Lancaster County. They had twelve children, as follows; **Isaac**, deceased; **Nancy**; **Mary**, deceased; **Susannah (Mrs. Andrew Long)**; **Michael**, of Walker Township, Juniata County; **Solomon**, of Iowa City, Ia.; **Catharine**; **Samuel**, a farmer of Fermanagh Township, Juniata County; **John**, of Iowa City; **Fannie**; **Margaret**; and **Eliza**, widow of **John McKay**, of Lewistown, Pa. **Samuel Coldren** was a Democrat; he held the office of township supervisor. He was a consistent member

of the Lutheran Church. His death occurred in Walker Township in 1867. His wife also died in the same township.

Michael Coldren received a limited education at the Van Wert school building, of Walker Township. From the age of seven until he was eighteen, he worked among the farmers of the vicinity, receiving a very meager compensation. He then learned milling with **George Rothrock**, in Thompsettown, spending three years with him, after which he learned carpentry with **Jacob Alleman**, being with him four years. He then rented a farm which he cultivated for ten years. In 1874, he purchased the farm of 128 acres on which he now resides; he made great improvements upon it, and devoted considerable attention to the raising of stock.

Michael Coldren married in Walker Township in 1855, **Miss Jemima Kinser**, born in Delaware Township, Juniata County, a daughter of **Joel** and **Hettie (Dunn) Kinser**; her father was a cooper of Delaware Township, and was of English descent. They had nine children: **Ellen (Mrs. Christian Kauffman)**, of Walker Township; **Josephine**, a dressmaker, married **Robert Blickensderfer**, of Toledo, O., who is superintendent of the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad; **William**, a physician, residing at Dennison, O., where he is the railroad company's physician; **Kate (Mrs. William Kauffman)**, of Walker Township; **Jennette (Mrs. Banks L. Kauffman)**, of Perry County, Pa.; **John L.**, a merchant, residing at Green Park, Perry County, married **Sarah Harbaugh**, of Perry County; **Oscar B.**, a lumber manufacturer; **Annie (Mrs. Cloyd Slautterback)**, of Delaware Township, Juniata County; and **James**, residing at home.

In 1862, **Mr. Coldren** enlisted at Mifflintown in Company F, One Hundred and Seventy first Pennsylvania Volunteers, commanded by Col. Everard Bierer, his company being under **Capt. William H. McClellan**. The regiment was in the United States service for about ten and a half

months, during all of which time he did his duty as a soldier boldly and unflinchingly. A considerable portion of the service was in North Carolina. Although **Mr. Coldren** did not participate in any great battle, he was in several minor engagements, and saw much hard service. At the time of the battle of Washington, D. C, he was on duty in the hospital as a nurse.

Mr. Coldren is universally recognized by his fellow citizens as a man of sterling integrity and good judgment. He has served for two terms as director of the poor, elected on the Republican ticket, of which party he is a staunch adherent. He has also filled, in the township, the offices of school director, assessor, tax collector, auditor, and inspector of elections, in all of which his duties have been performed in an able and satisfactory manner. He is a member of Post No. 331, G.A.R., at Mifflintown. He is also a member of the Horse and Mule Protection Company; and was at one time a member of the I. O. O. F. **Mr. Coldren** is an active and consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, of which he has been a trustee for several terms, and in which he is a ruling elder. He has also been closely and actively identified with the Sunday school work, both as a superintendent and teacher.

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