

Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania, Centre, Clinton, Union and Snyder County, Chicago, J. H. Beers and Company, 1898

**Reuben T. Comly**, a thorough and skillful farmer and business man of more than ordinary capacity, is a representative of the agricultural and commercial interests of Union Township, Centre County, his home being on Dick's Run road. He was born in Centerville, Elk County, Penn., March 26, 1850, but he has long made his home within the borders of Centre County, where he is both widely and favorably known.

His father, **John T. Comly**, now a saddler, harness and shoemaker of Unionville, Centre County, was born in Adams County, Penn., November 16, 1822, and is a son of **Jesse** and **Naomi (Howell) Comly**, who were born and married in Adams County, where they remained until 1836, when they came to Centre County. They located near Bellefonte, where the grandfather engaged in tanning and farming. He died in October, 1853, at the age of seventy-nine years, and his wife passed away December 24, 1865, at the age of seventy-seven years and six months. In their family were the following children: **Jacob**, a retired tanner of Centre County; **Joseph**, deceased; **Benjamin**, who is also living retired in Centre County; **Jesse**, who died shortly after his return home from the war; **Eleanor**, widow of **Jerry M. Hench**, of Perry County, Penn.; and **John T.**, father of our subject. The paternal great-grandfather was of English birth, while his wife was born in Scotland. On coming to America they located in Centre County, where they spent their remaining days. The maternal great-grandparents of our subject, who were natives of Scotland, located in Union County, Pennsylvania.

On March 5, 1848, **John T. Comly** was married to **Catherine Green**, who was born in Elk County, Penn., February 13, 1830, and is a daughter of **John** and **Mary (Thompson) Green**, natives of Centre County, but who met and were married in Elk County, where they spent their remaining days on a farm. Her father was born October 12, 1799, and died October 24, 1883; her mother was born August 9, 1809, and died September 1, 1889. In their family, **Catherine T.**, the mother of our subject, is the eldest; the others are as follows: **Rebecca**, born July 8, 1831, married **J. Nolf**, and since his death has become the wife of **W. Rudolph**, of Elk County; **Mary**, born November 2, 1832, died July 14, 1833; **James R.**, born July 12, 1835, is living in Elk County; **Reuben T.**, born March 12, 1838, died March 26, 1840; **Elizabeth**, born August 18, 1841, married **Louis Zimmerman**, and after his death wedded **J. L. Bonaham**, of Olean, N. Y.; and **John C.**, born August 6, 1847, is a farmer of Elk County.

**John Green**, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was twice married, his first wife being **Ann Kyler**, who was born September 15, 1802, and died July 31, 1827. To them were born two daughters: **Elizabeth**, born March 29, 1826, died August 8, 1826; and **Eliza A.**, born July 10, 1827, died January 27, 1861. **John Green** was the son of **James** and **Elizabeth (Fisher) Green**, natives of Centre County, where her death occurred, but he died in Elk County. The maternal grandmother of our subject was a daughter of **Robert** and **Catherine (Wantz) Thompson**, also natives of Centre County, but the former died in Clearfield County and the latter in Elk County, Pennsylvania.

**John T. Comly** continued to engage in the saddlery business in Elk County until September, 1864, when he came to Centre County, locating first at Nittany Valley, where he followed

farming for three years, but since that time he has successfully carried on the saddlery business and shoemaking at Unionville. He is a valued and highly respected citizen of the community, and a Republican in politics. In his family are two children, our subject being the elder; **William H.**, born May 25, 1854, is a resident of Unionville. He was married July 3, 1879, to **Mary A. McCune**, and they have two children: **Raymond** and **Boyd**.

**Reuben T. Comly** remained with his parents until he had attained his majority, during which time he attended school and served an apprenticeship to the saddlery business with his father. He then taught school on Dick's Run, in Union Township, Centre County, for one term, and for the same length of time had charge of a school at Unionville. The following Christmas (December 25, 1871), he was married to **Miss Amanda Davidson**, and they have four children, all at home, namely: **John A.**, born September 5, 1872; **Ella E.**, born September 20, 1874; **Olive B.**, born January 26, 1878; and **T. Ellwood**, born February 28, 1887.

**Mrs. Comly** was born in Half Moon, Centre County, March 30, 1848, and is a daughter of **Alexander** and **Sarah (Hicks) Davidson**, whose births occurred at the same place. There her parents were married and remained for fifteen years, when they removed to Union Township, where the mother died in 1851, at the age of forty years, and the father in April, 1884, at the age of seventy-seven. He engaged in the manufacture of charcoal, was a Republican in politics, and with his wife held membership in the Messiah Church. In their family were seven children: **Martha**, born January 3, 1832, is the wife of **W. Irwin**, a farmer of Union Township; **Mary**, born in 1834, died in 1836; **Hannah**, born in September, 1839, is the widow of **Harris Way**, of Union Township; **Eliza**, born January 11, 18—, is the wife of **William Taylor**, of Centre County; **Joseph H.** and **James** are both prominent farmers of the same county; **Amanda** is next in order of birth; and **one** died in infancy. The father of this family was a second time married, **Mrs. Mary (Walker) Watson** becoming his wife. She was the widow of **Green Watson**, by whom she had four children: **Lemuel**; **Roxanna**; **Miriam**, wife of a **Mr. Marshall**, of Clearfield County, Penn.; and **Green**, who was killed by a falling log. By his second wife, **Mr. Davidson** had three children: **Michael**, a butcher of Philipsburg, Penn.; **Grant**, a farmer of Centre County; and **Ida**, wife of **William Brower**, a farmer of Union Township. After his marriage, **Mr. Comly** purchased his present farm in Union Township, and has made his home there since 1871. Besides general farming he is successfully engaged in dealing in agricultural implements, and he is a straightforward, reliable business man of unquestioned integrity. Fraternally he holds membership with Blooming Lodge No. 639, I. O. O. F., of Unionville, the Encampment of Bellefonte, No. 72, and with the Grange. He is a pronounced Republican in politics, and in 1893 was the candidate of that party for county treasurer, but was unable to overcome the strong Democratic majority. He is public-spirited and progressive, and no man takes a deeper interest in the prosperity of the county, whose interests he has largely promoted.