

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, Comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry, Pennsylvania, Volume 1, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers 1897

Davis McKane Contner, deceased, was born in Oliver Township, Mifflin County, Pa., August 28, 1815, son of **John** and **Nancy (Gibboney) Contner**. His father was a miller, and a resident of Mifflin County; his mother, a daughter of **Alexander Gibboney**, died in early womanhood, leaving eight children: **George Washington; Jemima; Ann; John; Elizabeth; Gibboney; William;** and **Davis McKane**. Until the age of fourteen years, **Davis McKane Contner** spent his boyhood at home. He was then placed under the care of **Misses Elizabeth** and **Martha Kenney**, of White Hall, Menno Township. Here he attended the district school, and assisted in the work of the farm, remaining with them until he was thirty years of age, when he began farming on his own account. Later he again assumed the management of their land, and upon the death of **Miss Elizabeth Kenney** in 1874, the estate was bequeathed to him for faithful service rendered. **Mr. Contner** devoted his time to his farming interests, and his careful attention and skilful management were rewarded with abundant success. He always took an active interest in local affairs; he was active in the organization and construction of the Kishacoquillas Valley Railroad. **Mr. Contner** was a generous and public spirited citizen and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was active in political circles. In 1848 he was elected sheriff by the Democratic Party. In 1863 he was elected to the same office by the Republicans. He endorsed the platform on which Lincoln was elected, and adhered to the party until his death, which occurred January 3, 1889. He held various township offices and served as jury commissioner, and frequently acted as administrator. He was formerly a member of the board of directors of the Mifflin County National Bank.

Davis McKane Contner was married to **Mary Ann**, daughter of **David** and **Margaret (Kline) Charles**. Their children are: **Narcissa Kenney (Mrs. Harry B. Wharton); William**, died aged twenty-one months; and **Mary Elmira (Mrs. James W. Fleming)**, who has one child, **Harry Davis**, born January 1, 1894. **Mr. Contner** was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Contner was born in 1833. Her father was a blacksmith of Liverpool, Perry County, where he died March 28, 1853, aged forty-seven years. His wife survives him. Their surviving children are: **Mary Ann; Pamela (Mrs. Valentine Arndt)**, has a family of sons and daughters; **Elmira (Mrs. James George)**, has two children; and **Catharine (Mrs. John Beigh)**, who has nine children. **Susan, Louisa** and **Caroline** died in childhood. **Mr. Charles** was a member of the United Brethren Church, an earnest and faithful Christian.

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