

A History of the Juniata Valley and its People Under The Editorial Supervision of John W. Jordan, LL.D.; Librarian of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Illustrated; New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company; 1913; Volume II

The **Crozier**s are of Scotch-Irish descent, their ancestors early settlers in Juniata County, where **Armstrong Crozier** was born. He grew to manhood on the farm, learned the mason's trade and was the owner of one hundred and eighty seven acres of improved land in Beale Township. He was also a prosperous farmer. He was influential in his community, a Democrat in politics and held the office of supervisor. Both he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church. He married, at Lost Creek, Juniata County, Pennsylvania, **Sarah**, daughter of **Richard Bell**, of Fermanagh Township. She died at Johnstown, Beale Township, Juniata County, surviving her husband, who died there on January 28, 1847. Children: **Melinda**, died in childhood; **Elizabeth**, married **William Olds**; **Benjamin F.**, of whom further; **James H.**, moved west; **Mary C.**, married **D. B. McWilliams**.

(II) **Benjamin F.**, son of **Armstrong** and **Sarah (Bell) Crozier**, was born in Beale Township, Juniata County, Pennsylvania, August 25, 1834, died October 13, 1904, at Walnut, Pennsylvania. He worked at the home farm and attended public school until his father's death, when he was thirteen years of age. He then was compelled to leave school and, as the eldest son, take, as far as possible, the management of the farm. He continued at home until 1860, when he bought off **Calvin Stewart** a farm of fifteen acres in Beale Township. He improved his purchase, but sold the following year and returned to the old homestead, continuing until 1864, when he moved to Johnstown in the same township. In the fall of the year he enlisted at Harrisburg in Company E, Ninth Regiment Pennsylvania Cavalry. He served under General Sherman and was with him in the famous march from "Atlanta to the Sea". He escaped all injury and was only confined in the hospital once and that for only a few days. He was honorably discharged at the close of the war. He then returned to Beale Township and, purchasing the **Jacob Doughman** farm, resumed agricultural operations. He sold his farm a few years later and located in the village of Walnut, Juniata County, learned the saddler's trade and established there a harness and hardware making business that he successfully conducted until his retirement. In 1890 he was elected justice of the peace and held that office until his death. He was a conscientious, fair-minded justice, few appeals ever being taken from his decisions and none were ever reversed. After the appointment of his son as postmaster at Walnut, **Mr. Crozier** acted as deputy postmaster. He was well known and highly respected wherever known and was held in universal respect and honor. He was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, taught a class in the Sunday school (Sunday school superintendent undenominational) a line of Christian work that always interested him. He was an ardent Democrat, taking active part in town affairs. He was a faithful son, a good soldier, an honest official and an upright citizen.

He married, in Beale Township, March 16, 1858, **Mary A.**, daughter of **Daniel** and **Catherine Fry**, one of a family of nine children. She was born in Millerstown, Perry County, Pennsylvania, April 9, 1829, died October 5, 1894. She was a devoted member of the Lutheran Church and beloved by all for her piety and benevolence. Children: **Nevin P.**, moved west; **Mowry L.**, deceased, of Port Royal, Pennsylvania; **Benjamin F.**, of whom further.

(III) **Benjamin F. (2)**, son of **Benjamin F. (1)** and **Mary A. (Fry) Crozier**, was born in Beale Township, Juniata County, Pennsylvania, September 16, 1866. He obtained a good education in the public schools and at Tuscarora Academy. He taught school for sometime; was then a clerk, later a traveling salesman, continuing "on the road" three years. He resided in Walnut, and during President Cleveland's second administration was appointed postmaster of that village, his father acting as deputy. In 1900 he entered the employ of the Standard Steel Works Company as timekeeper, and in 1911 established a mercantile business at Burnham, which is managed by his son. **Mr. Crozier** is a man of ability and in every position in which he has been placed has acquitted himself with credit. He is a member of Lewistown Lodge, No. 187, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Lewistown Eyrie, Fraternal Order of Eagles; Lewistown Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose; and Lewistown Lodge of Owls. In political faith he is a Democrat. His residence is on Fifth Avenue, Burnham, which he owns, and he has now under construction a large store building to accommodate his growing mercantile business.

He married, in 1892, **Clara D. Showalter**, born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, in 1861, daughter of **Jacob** and **Sarah Showalter**, the former dying in Berks County, the latter in Burnham in 1904. The only child of **Benjamin F.** and **Clara D. Crozier** is: **Eldred G.**, born May 18, 1893; educated in the public schools, graduate of Burnham high school, class of 1910, now (1913) manager of the mercantile business established by his father in 1911.

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