

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

**Rev. Silas A. Davenport**, Academia, Juniata County, Pa., was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., June 27, 1846. He is a son of Silas and Betsy A. (St. John) Davenport.

The name of **Davenport** is one of the honored historic names of America, and far back beyond our colonial history, of the mother country also. Its line can be traced back in the records of England to the year 1086, when its representatives were already men of mark. During the lapse of succeeding centuries, many important positions under the crown of Great Britain have been held by members of the **Davenport** family. **Rev. John Davenport**, the first of the family to come to America, was born in England in 1597. He had been educated for the Church of England, but having more liberal views on the subject of religion than were prevalent in his country at that time, he went to Holland, and joined one of the bands of pioneers in the search for a home where they might enjoy "freedom to worship God" in accordance with the voice of conscience. Migrating with this brave little company to the wilds of the western continent, **Rev. John Davenport**, as is well known to the reader of American history, settled in Connecticut, and was the leading spirit in the founding of New Haven; here, in after years, grew up famous "old Yale," where his descendant, **Rev. Silas A. Davenport**, was educated.

**Rev. John Davenport** was the first pastor of the First Congregational Church in the city he had founded; and here he spent many years of his life, ministering to the spiritual wants of his congregation, and lending aid, comfort and advice to them in all their emergencies. But the figure of the "godly Davenport" is too familiar to need description; suffice it to say that, in his religious views, he was far in advance of the times in which he lived. **Rev. John Davenport** was married in England to **Elizabeth Wolley**. They had one child, **John**, who was a merchant at Boston. He married **Abigail Pierson**, of Branford, Conn; their children were six in number: **John**, who died in infancy; **Elizabeth**; **John (2)**; **Abraham**; **Abigail**; and **Mary**.

**John Davenport**, grandson of **Rev. John Davenport**, the founder of New Haven, became a minister, and settled in Stamford, Fairfield County, Conn. From him is descended in direct line the **Rev. Silas A. Davenport**. **William Davenport**, grandfather of **Rev. S. A.**, was born in Stamford, Conn. He was a son of **Lieut. H. Davenport**, a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was a farmer. He was married three times; his second wife, **Mary (Hoyt) Davenport**, was the grandmother of **Rev. Silas A.** **William Davenport** was a member of the Congregational Church. He died at Stamford in 1850. **Silas Davenport**, father of **Rev. S. A.**, was the eldest child of **William** and **Mary (Hoyt) Davenport**. He was educated in the common schools of Stamford. He afterwards became principal of the academy at New Canaan, Fairfield County, Conn. He subsequently became a hatter in New York City, and still later engaged in the real estate business in New York and Brooklyn, N. Y., and also in the State of New Jersey. He was a Republican of the most pronounced type, supporting abolitionist principles in the great crisis of the middle of this century. **Silas Davenport** was married at New Haven to **Betsy A. St. John**, a resident of New Canaan, Conn. Their children are: **Sarah St. John**, who died young; **William**, a soldier in the late war, died December 24, 1884; **Sarah E.**, died in August, 1874; **Silas A.**; and **Anna M.**, of Baltimore, Md. At the time of his death, which occurred in Philadelphia, January

13, 1885, **Silas Davenport** was a member of the Presbyterian Church. His wife now resides in Baltimore.

Their son, **Silas A. Davenport**, received his primary education at Elizabeth, N. J., where he studied under Rev. John Young and Rev. J. F. Pingry, D. D. After a course at Yale College, he was graduated in 1868. Soon after he went to Princeton Seminary and took a two years' course in theology, supplemented by a course of one year at Union Theological Seminary, New York City. Thence he went to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at New York City, and was graduated as a doctor of medicine in 1873. The first ministerial duties of **Rev. Mr. Davenport** were at Port Carbon, Schuylkill County, Pa., from 1875 to July, 1887. During the next six months he was in Pittsburg, Pa., from which place he went to Landisburg, Perry County, Pa., and remained there from January, 1878, to April, 1880. From that time until October, 1885, he was pastor of the Middle Tuscarora Church, Juniata County, Pa. In 1885 he went to Baltimore, Md., where he preached until November, 1888, doing much good in that time. But on account of ill-health he was obliged to spend the following year in San Diego, Cal.; returning in 1890, he went to Port Royal, Juniata County. Soon after he accepted the call of the Middle and the Lower Tuscarora Churches, of which he has ever since been the faithful pastor. The appearance of the houses of worship has been much improved during his pastorate, and the membership of the church has increased. **Mr. Davenport's** ability as an orator, as well as his worthy example and his diligent care of his congregation, has done much towards building it up in numbers and in strength. In 1873, after his graduation in medicine, he went to Ning-Po, China, as a medical missionary and an eye specialist, and remained one year. On his return he began his pastoral career, as already related. Like his father, **Rev. Mr. Davenport** is a Republican. He is much esteemed and respected, not only by his congregation, but by many friends in all places where he has been.

**Rev. Silas A. Davenport** was married in August, 1878, to **Martha E.**, daughter of **Samuel** and **Mary I. (Marley) Mateer**, born in Blain, Perry County, Pa. Her father was a tanner of Blain, born in Landisburg, Perry County, and her mother a native of Juniata County. The children of this marriage are: **Mary I.**, a student at Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pa.; **Jesse S.**, a student at Blairstown, N. J.; **Oliver S.**; **Ellen A.**; and **Walter W.** The mother died of grippe, January 13, 1892, not only mourned by her family, but deeply regretted by all who had come within the sphere of her gentle and kindly influence.

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