

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

John W. Deckard, M. D., Richfield, Juniata County, Pa., son of **David** and **Barbara (Stence) Deckard**, was born in Howe Township, Perry County, Pa., December 27, 1852. **David Deckard** was born in Buffalo Township, Perry County, in 1817; his father was **Philip Deckard**, a farmer of that county, and was of German descent. After receiving a subscription school education, which was the best obtainable in rural neighborhoods in his youth, he began to maintain himself by his own industry. He worked on his father's farm and on others in Buffalo Township until his marriage, after which he resided for some time at Liverpool, Pa., and was for several years employed as boatman on the canal. He afterwards removed to Howe Township, Perry County, and settled down to farming, as his vocation for life. So diligently and with such skill did he pursue his calling that he became one of the most substantial farmers of his township, owning 300 acres of land, on which he had built a comfortable dwelling, good barns and other outbuildings, and made various other improvements. He was a Democrat. He served his township as supervisor and as school director. Having reached the venerable age of eighty, **David Deckard** is now enjoying well-earned repose from labor, while still residing on the farm he cultivated for so many years. He was married to **Barbara Stence**, a native of Buffalo Township, and a daughter of a farmer of that township, who was of German lineage. Their children are: **Charles H.**, residing on the homestead; **Dr. John W.**; and **Noble C.**, of Howe Township, Perry County. **Mrs. Deckard** died in 1890.

Having received instructions in the elementary branches of education in the public schools of Howe Township, **John W. Deckard** attended the Normal School at Millerstown, Pa., taught by Professor Wright, until he was qualified for teaching, which he followed for four winter terms in Buffalo and Howe townships. His summers were occupied with the study of medicine, which he pursued under the preceptorship of **Dr. Stites**, of Millerstown. **Mr. Deckard** then entered the Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati, O., and became **Dr. Deckard** in 1874, graduating with honor in the spring of that year. In July of the same year, he began practice at Richfield, and has continued in the same place ever since. His professional skill and careful attention have enabled him to build up an extensive practice; his field of labor includes two counties, Juniata and Snyder. For twelve years, **Dr. Deckard** conducted the only drug store in Juniata County, outside of Mifflintown; but in August, 1896, he sold the store, which is now kept by **Mr. Patterson**. He has been for sixteen years a member of the township school board. Being a Democrat, **Dr. Deckard** was appointed postmaster in 1885, during President Cleveland's first administration; he then held the office for four years, and in 1893, he was again appointed, and is still in charge of the Richfield mails, performing his duties in a manner eminently satisfactory.

Dr. John W. Deckard was married in Cincinnati, in 1876, to **Emma**, daughter of **Garrett Wills**, a well-known resident of that city, who died in 1878. **Mrs. Deckard** was born in Richmond, Ind. The children of this marriage are: **Lillie**, died when three years old; **Percy**, a student at the Academy of Mifflintown; **Oscar**, attending school in Lykens, Pa.; and **one** that died in infancy. The home of the family is considered the finest dwelling in Richfield; the cost of its erection was over \$4,000. The Doctor also owns two farms, the one in the vicinity of the borough of Richfield, and the other in Snyder County.