

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

George Dietz, Knousetown, Juniata County, Pa., was born in Wittemberg, Germany, July 11, 1832, son of **John** and **Margaret (Klein) Dietz**. His parents were both natives of Wittemberg, where his father followed the double calling of weaver and farmer. They had seven children: **Margaret** and **John**, both died in Germany; **Jacob**, still resides in his native land; **George**; **Michael**, who lives in Philadelphia; and two who died very young. The parents are both deceased. The family were all members of the Lutheran Church of Germany.

After receiving a good education in the German schools, **George Dietz** continued working with his father on the farm and at the loom until he was nineteen years of age. Then, desiring strongly to see the great "Western Continent, of which he had so often heard, he went to Liverpool, England, and from that port embarked for America, on the sailing vessel "Elizabeth." After a passage of twenty-three days, he landed in New York; this was in 1851. The ship in which he crossed the sea was lost on her return voyage. **Mr. Dietz** spent a few days in New York City, then went to Philadelphia, and afterward to Trevorton, Northumberland County, where he worked for three months on the railroad, at a compensation of seventy-five cents per day.

Thence he went to Tremont, Schuylkill County, where he continued at railroad work for six months longer; and he was next employed in the Schuylkill County coal mines for four years. In 1856, he came to Juniata County, and bought a farm, which he did not at once take under his own charge, but spent four years near Georgetown, in Northumberland County, working at a lime kiln. Then, returning to Juniata County, he settled on his farm in Monroe Township, and remained there until 1862, when he volunteered for the defense of his adopted country, enlisting in the One Hundred and Seventy-first Pennsylvania Volunteers, Militia Company F, under Col. E. Bierer and Capt. W. H. McClellan. His regiment was part of the Army of the Potomac, and was stationed at Newbem, N. C. This regiment was ordered to the relief of the Federal troops at Gettysburg, but did not arrive in time to participate in that great battle. After passing about ten months in the service, **Mr. Dietz**, being honorably discharged, returned to his home and his customary occupations; but in March, 1865, in Chambersburg, he once more enlisted, this time in Company D, Ninety-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was in several charges; near Petersburg, Va., he was struck in the foot by a piece of shell, which made him lame for three weeks. **Mr. Dietz** was present at the surrender of Lee, and saw that general take the oath of allegiance under an apple tree. His gallant service, with all its perils and hardships, being now concluded, he once more came back to his farm, on which he has ever since resided. He has a pleasant home; but the exposures and fatigues of army life had the unhappy effect of ruining his sight; it began to fail in 1877, and it was not long before he became totally blind. But a grateful country does not neglect him; he is in the enjoyment of a comfortable pension, as a token of the people's appreciation of the sacrifice he has made. The story of his life is on the whole a pleasant one; he began life in America a poor and friendless youth, a stranger among strangers, and by his diligence and uprightness has secured not only a competence for himself and family, but what is still better, the confidence and respect of his friends and neighbors. He is a Democrat; he was for two years supervisor of the township.

George Dietz was married in 1857, at Tremont, Schuylkill County, Pa., to **Mary N.**, daughter of **Frederick Keisling**, a farmer and mason of that county, and of German descent. Their children are: **Kate (Mrs. John Hopp)**, residing on the homestead; **Margaret (Mrs. John H. Tschopp)**, upon a farm in Monroe Township; **John**, a merchant of Knousetown; **Frederick**, a farmer of Snyder County; **Mary**, resides in Perry County; **George**, of Greenwood Township, Juniata County; **Jacob**, of Monroe Township; **Emma (Mrs. C. Barner)**, of Susquehanna Township; **Elizabeth (Mrs. William Troutman)**, of Greenwood Township; **Alda**, died young; and **Ida S. (Mrs. Dietz)**, who died September 25, 1894. **Mr. Dietz** is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

www.theperryhistorians.org