

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

William R. Dum, Elliottsburg, Perry County, Pa., was born in Tyrone, now Spring Township, Perry County, March 10, 1812, son of **Jacob** and **Sarah (Reapsomer) Dum**. The maternal grandfather, **Frederick Thommen** (the name was contracted to Dum), preceded his father from Switzerland to Harrisburg, Pa., in 1805, when he was eighteen years of age. In his native country, he was a silk weaver, and was for some time employed by a weaver of Harrisburg, then came to Centre Township, Perry County, and followed his trade for many years. He then bought a farm in Spring Township, now owned by Sheriff Gray, and occupied it until his death. He married **Elizabeth Souder**; they have fourteen children; two only survive: **Lydia (Mrs. Henry Smith)**, of Newport, Pa.; and **William**, of Elliottsburg, Pa. Those deceased are: **Catherine (Mrs. Samuel Loy)**, of Centre; **Frederick**, now thirty years of age; **Mary (Mrs. John Tressler)**, of Marklesville; **Caroline (Mrs. David Adams)**; **Susan (Mrs. John Fosselman)**; **John**; **Jacob**; **Elizabeth (Mrs. Abram Kell)**; and three infant children. **Mr. Dum** died October 1, 1856, aged seventy years; **his wife** died in 1873, aged eighty seven. They were for many years members of the Reformed church, but later in life joined the Evangelical Association. The maternal great-great-grandfather of **William E. Dum**, **Daniel Piper**, came from Germany and engaged in farming in Perry County, and was among the early settlers of that section. He was married to **Catherine Markel**; they had one child. The maternal great-grandparents, **John Reapsomer** and wife, were Germans. They had two children. **John**, the son, came to America in 1803, and began farming in Spring Township, Perry County, on the farm that is still the Reapsomer homestead. **John Reapsomer** was married to **Catherine Burrel**. They had five children, one survives: **Elizabeth (Mrs. Franklin Leonard)**, of Rye Township, Perry County; **John**, died in infancy; **Mary (Mrs. Joseph Biseline)**, died in 1880, aged sixty-seven; **Sarah**, died October 20, 1884; and **Daniel**, died in October, 1887, aged seventy-one. **Mr. Reapsomer** died April 9, 1840, aged sixty-five years; **his wife** died March 9, 1840, aged fifty years.

Jacob Dum was born in Madison Township, December 20, 1819. He was a large land owner, and an able financier. In connection with his occupation of farming, he held a fire insurance agency; he served as school director for many years. **Jacob Dum** was married to **Sarah**, daughter of **John** and **Catherine Reapsomer**. Their children are: **William R.** ; **Catherine (Mrs. Henry L. Tressler)**; **Sarah (Mrs. Josiah W. Dunkelberger)** ; **Emma (Mrs. O. L. Hench)**; and **Dr. J. M.**, of Mackeyville, Clinton County, Pa.; **Daniel C. A.**, died March 9, 1863, aged six years and three months; and **Jacob F.**, died in Kansas, September 29, 1872, aged twenty-one. **Mr. Dum** died November- 17, 1893, aged seventy-four; his wife died October 20, 1884, aged sixty-six. **Mr. Dum** was a member of the Reformed church, and **Mrs. Dum** of the Evangelical Association. **Mr. Dum** was in service as deacon and elder.

After attending the public schools, **William R. Dum** entered the Mt. Dempsey and Loysville Academies. Until he was twenty-one years of age he assisted his father on the farm, and when eighteen was engaged in school teaching. August 13, 1862, he enlisted in the army and was assigned to Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was discharged in June, 1863. He re-enlisted August 30, 1864, and with the rank of fifth sergeant was assigned to Company E, Two Hundred and Eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served until the

close of the war, being discharged June 1, 1865. Mr. Dum took part in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Hatchers Run, in the capture of Fort Steadman, and in all the engagements in front of Petersburg. He returned home and engaged in farming, and in teaching during the winter. In the fall of 1866, he entered the mercantile business, and continued until 1870, when he began farming, which is his occupation at the present time. Mr. Dum is a Republican. He was appointed postmaster in 1869, under President Grant, and served for two years. He is a director of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Perry County; he is a member of Sergeant John Jones Post, No. 448, G. A. R., and of the O. U. A. M.

William R. Dum was married, May 2, 1867, to **Mary C**, daughter of **William** and **Catherine (Stone) Fuller**, of Saville Township. Their children are: **Mary Alice (Mrs. Elmer Ricedorf)**; **Alfred**, married **Emma Siler**; **Amanda (Mrs. John Ritter)**, of New Kingston, Cumberland County, Pa.; **Jacob M. F.**, married **Elizabeth L. Garber**, occupies the homestead; **Grace V.**; **James A. G.**; **Josiah F.**; **Mabel Sarah M.**, died March 1, 1885, aged one year, five months; and one child died in infancy. Mr. Dum and family are members of the United Evangelical church, in which he serves as trustee, and has served as Sunday-school superintendent.

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