

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 W. Fink**, general blacksmith and justice of the peace, old Port Royal, Turbett Township, Juniata County, Pa., was born April 17, 1839, in Milford Township, Juniata County. He is a son of **Frederick** and **Susannah (Goshorn) Fink**. **Frederick Fink** was a native of Pennsylvania, and had an English and German education. He lived in Huntingdon County, and was a contractor by occupation. He afterwards made his home in Milford Township, Juniata County, where he owned a small farm. He made a contract with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to clear away the timber for the construction of the track. During the progress of this work he was killed by the falling of a tree in the year 1841. He married in Huntingdon County, **Miss Susannah Goshorn**, a native of that county. Their children were: **Louisa**, married **Charles McNeil**, both deceased; **Jacob**, who was killed on the Pennsylvania Railroad; **John**, of Harrisburg; **Martha**, widow of **Thomas Hamilton**; **David**, of Thompsontown, Pa.; **George**, of Old Port Royal, Pa.; **Porter**, deceased; and **Margaret (Mrs. Andrew Snyder)**, of Perry County. **Mr. Fink** was an enterprising and industrious man, much respected in the community. In politics he was a Democrat. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His widow died in Milford Township, in 1867.

**George W. Fink** attended the public schools of Milford Township. At the age of fourteen he began working for farmers in the vicinity, receiving very meager compensation. After three years he secured employment on the Pennsylvania Railroad, as a watchman, at which he remained for two years, after which he learned the blacksmith trade, and followed it for three years, until the breaking out of the Civil war. He then enlisted in Mifflintown, in Company A, of the First Pennsylvania Cavalry, under Col. George D. Bayard, and Capt. John K. Robinson. He was in the service for over three years, during which time he participated in most of the battles of the Army of the Potomac, including such prominent and bloody engagements as Drainesville, Harrisonburg, Cross Keys, Cedar Mountain, Gainesville, the Second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Brandy Station, Aldie, Gettysburg, and many others. He received wounds in both arms and also in the stomach, in consequence of which he was sent to the Douglass hospital in Washington, D. C, and afterwards to the Chestnut Hill hospital in Philadelphia. **Mr. Fink** returned home with the proud record of a brave soldier, who had on all occasions unflinchingly performed his duty. After the war he settled in Port Royal, where he has remained for more than thirty years engaged at his trade as a blacksmith.

He was married July 1, 1865, at Huntingdon, to **Maria E. Kerlin**, born in Milford Township, May 27, 1845, a daughter of **David** and **Jane (Hardy) Kerlin**, of whom the former was a farmer and a blacksmith, of Milford Township. Of **Mrs. Fink's** parents the father is eighty-three years of age and is of Scotch-Irish descent, the mother, who is deceased, was of Irish descent. To the marriage of **Mr. Fink** six children were born, of whom **Maude**, **David**, **Frederick** and **Edward** died in infancy. The others are: **Adessa**, who has received a substantial education in the public schools and in the Airy View Academy, and is now residing with her parents; and **Lenora May**, wife of **Walter Speise**, a cigar manufacturer of Port Royal. **Mr. Fink's** integrity and sound judgment have been recognized by his fellow-citizens in his election to numerous responsible positions. He has ably filled the office of school director for nine years, during which time he

has been both secretary and president of the board. He has also been the tax collector of the township; and in 1894, was elected a justice of the peace, which office he still fills with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the community. He is an active member of the U. Y. L., and of Tuscarora Lodge, No. 566, I. O. O. F., located at Port Royal, as well as of Juniata Encampment of the same order. In politics he is a Democrat.

**Mr. Fink** is a zealous and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which body he is a trustee and was for many years a class leader. He has been closely identified with the Sunday-school work, both as a teacher and a superintendent; while his daughter, **Miss Adessa Fink**, is prominent in the work of the Epworth League.

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