

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 Fleisher**, Newport, Perry County, Pa., was born August 17, 1833, in Saville Township, Perry County, on the old homestead upon which his grandfather settled. When **George Fleisher** was but a few months old, his father removed to Oliver Township, one mile and a half from Newport. Here his opportunities for an education were rather meager. All the knowledge which the teachers of that day were able to impart was soon acquired, and whatever problems, mathematical or otherwise, presented themselves for solution to an inquiring young mind, had to be worked out independently. Young **Fleisher** felt himself challenged by some such knotty questions, and probably the necessity for self reliance in solving them was a wholesome stimulus, serving to develop a habit of independent reasoning and a resolute perseverance in the face of difficulties. Such as it was, "school kept" only three months in the year; the long vacation was passed for the most part in helpful labor on the farm. At the age of nineteen, **Mr. Fleisher** became an apprentice for two years at carpentry, under the instructions of his uncle, **George Fleisher**, of Marklesville, Pa. For one year more, he continued working for his uncle as journeyman; then he worked in the same capacity for a year in Blair County, Pa. Then, after a year's work at home, he began business for himself. He was married when about twenty-four years old, and soon after rented a small property in Oliver Township, which a little later became his own by purchase. He then began contracting, and his business rapidly extended.

In 1866, **Mr. Fleisher** became a member of the Newport Manufacturing and Building Company, which began business in May of that year. The company was at first an association of eighteen or twenty gentlemen, but in the summer of 1867, the style of the firm changed to the Newport Planing Mill Company, and the number of partners was reduced to five. The interest was purchased by **William Bosserman, John W. Smith, Henry C. Smith, B. F. Miller, and George Fleisher**. The interests of **Henry C. Smith, William Bosserman, and B. F. Miller** were bought out, one after the other, and for several years, the business was conducted by **John W. Smith** and **George Fleisher**; finally, on May 5, 1883, the latter bought out **Mr. Smith's** share in the concern, and has ever since been the sole owner and manager. He has enlarged the business, including the machinery and capacity of the mill, to three or four times its original extent. He furnishes employment to thirty or forty men. As a boy, **Mr. Fleisher** wished very much to be owner of a planing mill, but scarcely ventured to hope that the wish would be realized. But the same straightforward, manly resolution that made the schoolboy successful in spite of difficulties, has secured the prosperity of the man. Besides his mill, **Mr. Fleisher** owns considerable real estate in Newport, Altoona and Steelton, and also several good farms. He adheres to the Republican Party.

**George Fleisher** was married in January, 1857, near Marklesville, to **Mary E. Long**. Their second child, **Jerome Milton**, died when very young; those living are: **Ella**, at home; **Jennie (Mrs. Charles Shutter)**, of Steelton, Pa.; and **J. Emery. J. Emery Fleisher**, now twenty-eight years of age, was educated in the public schools, and is a graduate of the Eastman Business College, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He is a popular young man, active in politics, and much esteemed. **Mr. George Fleisher** is a member of the Lutheran Church.