

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

**J. C. Frank**, coach manufacturer, Newport, Perry County, Pa., son of **Philip** and **Mary S. (Glace) Frank**, was born in Buffalo Township, Perry County, January 1, 1837. His great-grandfather came from France, and served in the army during the French war. His hair which was very long was shot off in an engagement. **Michael Frank**, grandfather of **J. C. Frank**, was born in Perry County, was reared a farmer and continued in that occupation through life. He married **Miss Macklin**; they lived first in Howe Township, Perry County, but later in Buffalo Township, same county, where they both died. Their children are: **Philip**; **Barbara**; **George**; **David**; and **Eliza**.

**Philip Frank**, father of **J. C. Frank**, was born in Howe Township, Perry County, in 1807. Very little of his youth was spent in schools, but he was industriously employed on the farm during his boyhood. His natural talents were of a mechanical turn; he mastered the art of wagon-making entirely by himself, and was acknowledged as the most skillful man of his time in that business. He married **Mary Sophia Glace**, who was born in Berks County, Pa., and reared partly in Perry, and partly in Northumberland County, Pa. In 1843, he settled at Gertys Notch, on the Susquehanna River, four miles from Buffalo, Pa., where he opened a wagon shop and remained until his death, which occurred in 1882. His first wife died in 1850. Their children are: **John**, of Lock Haven, Pa.; **Hannah Elizabeth (Mrs. Matchert)**, residing near Halifax, Dauphin County, Pa.; **J. C.**; **Samuel**, served in the late war and died of disease during his term of service; **Sarah Catherine**, died in infancy; **Mary Emma (Mrs. Shaffner)**, of Millersburg, Pa.; **Alexander**, was killed in the Red River Expedition during the late war; **Rebecca Jane (Mrs. Rhodes)**, of Harrisburg, Pa. **Philip Frank** was again married, in 1852. The children of his second wife, **Mrs. Ellen Frank**, are: **Maggie (Mrs. Vetting)**, whose husband is a merchant residing on Duncan's Island; **Agnes (Mrs. Klinger)**, of Liverpool, Perry County, Pa.; **George** was married in 1881 and died in 1883. **Mrs. Ellen Frank** now resides at Liverpool, Pa. **Mr. Frank** was not connected with any church, but was a strictly moral man, and was highly esteemed by a large circle of friends.

**J. C. Frank** did not attend school until the family had settled at Gertys Notch. The school house was situated three miles from the home, and was a very primitive edifice, its furniture consisting solely of slab benches. The teachers were very incompetent, and were sorely deficient, both in intellectual and equipment and in morals. One was much addicted to drink, and frequently during school hours, making some plausible excuse to the scholars for leaving the room, would resort to the bushes nearby, to take inspiring draughts from his bottle, which he had concealed there. He was closely watched on such occasions; his much loved bottle often disappeared mysteriously, and only fragments of broken glass were found near the place where he had hidden it. Another teacher would sometimes become so much intoxicated that he could not sit in his chair, and on one such occasion the scholars resorted to the wood pile and brought in cord wood with which they propped him in his seat. As soon as he was old and strong enough to work, **Mr. Frank** was employed in boating on the canal, and afterwards on the Susquehanna River. His father later took him into the shop, where he worked for two years, during which time he acquired the trade of wagon-making. After his marriage he became a resident of Port Royal,

Juniata County, Pa., where he bought a lot and built a shop; in order to accomplish this he was compelled to borrow money, but such was his success in business that he was able, at the expiration of three and a half years to return his loan and clear eleven thousand dollars. For the next two months, he worked in a sawmill at Williamsport, Pa., at two dollars per day, his wife in the meantime remaining with her father.

He next went to the oil fields, and was employed for one month at Oil City, Pa., in building tanks, after which he was made foreman and received five dollars per day. He went to the oil fields by way of Pittsburg, Pa., where he took passage on a steamboat running on the Allegheny River. Having exhausted their fuel before they reached the end of the trip, the crew was compelled to burn the empty oil barrels which constituted the cargo of the boat. On reaching Bradys Bend, the water in the river was so low that the boat could proceed no further, and **Mr. Frank** was compelled to leave his trunk on the boat, and, with several companions, to make the remaining forty miles of the journey on foot.

His trunk reached him about a week later. At the end of two years, he resigned his place as foreman at Oil City on account of an injury to his leg, which necessitated the use of crutches for three months. In the fall of 1866, he returned to the vicinity of Newport, Pa., buying a farm of twenty nine acres there, which he cultivated for a time, and on which he later built a shop. His business increased to such proportions that he was obliged to sell this place and remove to Newport, where he rented a dwelling and shop, which he occupied until 1875. At this date, he bought three lots, on which he erected a shop and dwelling house, which were completed in the spring of 1876. He had built two houses, a blacksmith shop and a coach shop.

The Republican Party has a loyal adherent in **Mr. Frank**, and he classes himself with the gold standard wing of the party. For two terms, he has acceptably filled the office of common councilman. It has ever been the pleasure of **Mr. Frank** to aid every worthy enterprise. His business has always been conducted with industry and energy, and on the most upright principles. He is highly esteemed, and is very popular.

**J. C. Frank** was married in April, 1860, to **Miss Christiana Miller**, of Perry County, Pa. Their children are: **Ida C.**, died aged eight years; **Maggie Jane (Mrs. Charles Sefton)**, of Newport, Pa.; **Samuel**, died in infancy; **Harry Chisley**, born in 1872, married **Effie P.**, daughter of **Resler** and **Esther Buck**; **Gilbert Horace**, born in 1874, at home; **Mary Emma**, at home; **Maud V.**, at home; **Annie**, at home. **Mr. Frank** is a member of the Methodist Church, and has for many years served his congregation as trustee, class leader, and steward.

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