

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. W. Frank, hardware merchant, Newport, Perry County, Pa., son of **George** and **Catherine (Rathford) Frank**, was born in Turbett Township, Juniata County, Pa., April 4, 1825. Of the ancestors of **Mr. Frank** little is known, excepting that his grandfather, **Jacob Frank**, settled on what became the homestead farm in Howe Township, Perry County, which he cultivated during his life, and on which he died. **George Frank**, the father of **J. W. Frank**, was born on this place, which he afterwards inherited, and on which he spent his life in agricultural pursuits. In religious faith and church membership he was a Presbyterian.

Politically, he was first associated with the old Whig party, but afterwards became a Republican. He was married to **Catharine Rathford**, whose death occurred before his own. Their children are: **J. W. Frank**; **Samuel**, resides in Newport, Pa.; **Hiram**, was a soldier in the Mexican war, and died soon after he returned to his home; **Martha Jane**, married **Jacob Bender**, of Perry County, and both are deceased; **Jemima (Mrs. Jacob Fleisher)**, resides near Newport; **Ellen (Mrs. Robert McWilliams)**, of Harrisburg, Pa.; and **Fatima (Mrs. Abraham Fetroe)**, deceased. **J. W. Frank** early attended subscription schools in his native county, but when he was ten years old, his parents removed to Perry County, and occupied the old homestead in Howe Township; here he finished his education in the public schools.

When quite young, he was employed on the home farm, where he remained until the death of his father; he and his brother, **Samuel**, then took charge of the farm, which they cultivated for some years, until **Samuel Frank** disposed of his interest in the farm to **George W. Bretz**. **J. W. Frank** continued the business with his new partner until 1848, when he, too, sold his interest to **Mr. Bretz**, and became a clerk in the general store of **Keim & Demaree**, where he continued fourteen years. Three or four years after, the firm was changed to **J. S. Demaree**, and **Mr. Frank** eventually became interested in the business as a partner of **Mr. Demaree**. In 1868, in partnership with **Mr. J. P. Clark**, **Mr. Frank** embarked in the hardware business in Mifflintown. This arrangement continued until 1871, when the business was sold; he then bought the hardware store of **B. F. Miller & Son**, in Newport, and shortly afterwards erected the building which he now occupies, and in which he has since conducted his business.

The Republican Party has no more loyal and ardent adherent than **Mr. Frank**. Under Mr. Lincoln's administration he was appointed postmaster in 1860, and he has acceptably and faithfully filled the offices of burgess, councilman, and school director. By his own efforts he has secured his business success and social standing. He is highly esteemed and is regarded as a leading citizen.

In 1858, **J. W. Frank** was married to **Catherine E.**, daughter of **John** and **Catherine (Horfnogel) Bretz**. Their only child, **Floy**, married **C. A. Stoger**, a railroad agent at Philadelphia.