

Joseph W. Frank, (4 Apr 1825, Port Royal, Juniata County, PA – 25 Jul 1897, Newport, Perry County, Pennsylvania)

Joseph W. Frank, hardware merchant, died at 11 o'clock Friday night, at his residence, at Walnut and Second streets, greatly to the regret and surprise of the public as well as the sorrow of his family. Tuesday night, the 22nd ult. he suffered a heart attack of cholera morbus, but had sufficiently recovered as to be able to walk to his store on Wednesday of last week. However the performance of this feat taxed his waning strength beyond what it was able to bear and was the means of exciting to activity what his physician, Dr. J.B. Eby, diagnosed as heart disease in a passive or latent state, and producing acute dilation of the heart, from the effects of which death, finally ensued.

Mr. Frank was the eldest son and first child of **George Frank**, and was born near Port Royal, Juniata County, Pa. on April 4, 1825. He removed to Howe Township in 1832 or 1833, his father having bought the farm now owned by **George R. Bretz**, a nephew of the deceased. There he passed the time until the year 1848, when he came to Newport and entered as a clerk the general store of Demaree and Keim, who were engaged in business on Front Street, south of Market. In 1850, John S. Demaree bought out his partner, John Keim. **Mr. Frank** remaining in the capacity of clerk until the year, 1855, when he became a business partner of Mr. Demaree's the firm named Demaree and Frank. In 1858 the late A.B. Demaree was admitted to membership in the firm, the same of which was then changed to Demaree, Frank and Co. This same year John S. Demaree finished the Butz building and the firm of which he was the head took possession of it, or so much as was necessary for the requirements of their large business. He sold his interest in the firm to John S Demaree in 1861, when he was appointed postmaster by President Lincoln. He located the post office in the room now occupied by C.T. Rice's Grocery store, where he also carried on a small mercantile business.

Meanwhile, his father had died, and his brother, **Samuel Frank**, and he came into possession of the homestead, in Howe Township. Later he bought his brother's interest in the farm and subsequently sold it to the late **George R. Bretz**, his brother-in-law. His health failing, he retired from active business pursuits at the expiration of his term as postmaster, and then divided his time between his home and his farm until September 1, 1868, when he, with the late Dr. J.P. Clark, as his partner, engaged in the hardware business at Mifflintown. In the spring of 1871 they sold out and Mr. Frank returned to Newport, engaged in the business which he unremittingly followed almost to the day of his death. His entire business career was marked by the strictest probity and his methods were the personification of system and order. No man stood higher in business circles anywhere--no man could stand higher for honesty and fair dealing. He enjoyed the respect of everybody who knew him, and while not seeking public office, was frequently called upon to serve as a member of town council and as a school director. He was elected county auditor in 1850, and in 1867, was the Republican candidate from this county for member of assembly, but Franklin County, which with Perry comprised a legislative district, gave a Democratic majority which defeated him.

While he devoted most of himself almost exclusively to his own business, his name was found on every public subscription and his encouragement and support could be counted upon in every undertaking intended for the progress of the town. He was a public spirited citizen at all times,

and never refused to respond when called upon to contribute to the various public enterprises of the past 25 years. Those who have been actively engaged for years in pushing the town along always counted on J.W. Frank for assistance and were never disappointed.

He was married to Miss **Catharine Bretz**, June 9, 1852. She and their daughter, **Mrs. Sager**, of Philadelphia, survive him, as also do his brother, **Samuel Frank**, of this place, and his sisters, **Mrs. Jacob Fleisher**, of Oliver Township, and Mrs. **Robert McWilliams**, of Harrisburg.

The funeral was held Monday afternoon. The service began at the house at 2 o'clock and ended an hour or so later in Newport Cemetery, the place of interment. The spacious first floor and the stairs were crowded with people from all parts of town and vicinity, while several hundred lined the front sidewalk, chairs having been provided for them. The various places of business were closed, as a mark of respect, during the obsequies. Rev. Jams M. Mullen, Pastor of the Reformed Church, of which the late Mr. Frank was a regular attendant, officiated. The church choir rendered two appropriate selections during the service. Mr. Mullen followed with a fervid, eloquent eulogy, and then an opportunity was given the public to take a last look at the face so familiar to all in life. Scores upon scores passed the casket, at the head of which stood a magnificent floral piece composed of a cross, heart and anchor white dove the perfect proportions of which exemplified the highest style of the taxidermist's art. It was learned this was a tribute from Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Dilley, of Philadelphia. The doors having open all morning, a great many people took occasion to visit the bier before the funeral services began.

The pallbearers were; **James B. Leiby, B.M. Eby, T.H. Butturf, W.H. Gantt, A.W. Kough** and W.H. Hoopes. Burial in Newport Cemetery.