

Jacob Fritz, New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa., was born May 7, 1836, in Perry County. He is a son of the late **George** and **Rebecca (Christ) Fritz**. His grandfather, **John Fritz**, was born November 11, 1754, son of an immigrant from Germany. Besides working as a blacksmith, **John Fritz** was a farmer, in the days when to find a market for his produce, he was obliged to haul it to Baltimore by team. He was married, April 26, 1785, to **Elizabeth Robinson**, born December 4, 1764. Their children were: **John; Sallie; Richard; Israel; Henry** and **Mary**, twins; **Robinson; Thomas; William** and **Catherine**, twins; **Stewart; Richard; and George**. **John Fritz** died February 4, 1832, aged seventy seven years, two months and twenty-two days; his wife had died January 13, 1828, at the age of sixty-three years and nine months.

Their youngest son, **George Fritz**, was born December 21, 1803, in Perry County; he was a plasterer. His wife, also a native of Perry County, was a daughter of **Jacob Christ**. Their children were: **Rebecca**, died September 3, 1855, aged fifteen; **John M.**, when one year old was drowned in a tub of water, November 19, 1834; **William**, died August 19, 1850, two years old; **Jacob; Mary (Mrs. George A. Smith); Sarah**, first wife of **George A. Smith**, is deceased; **Harriet; George; and Henry**. **Mr. Fritz**, the father, died March 10, 1858, aged fifty-five; his wife survived until June 27, 1862. They were members of the Lutheran Church.

The eldest of this family, **Jacob Fritz**, now one of the older citizens of Centre Township, and greatly respected there, was a pupil in the common schools during their winter sessions until he reached the age of fifteen; during the rest of the year, he gave willing and serviceable aid in farm labor. At the age of seventeen, he applied himself to learn the trade of blacksmith; he was an apprentice for two years and a journeyman for one year at Liverpool, Perry County. He then bought a lot in New Bloomfield, on which he built himself a house and a smithy, and carried on his business there for sixteen years. He then gave his property in part, exchange for the farm which he now owns, and which formerly belonged to his uncle. In the spring of 1863, he removed to the farm, and cultivated it for four years; at the end of that time, his health becoming impaired, **Mr. Fritz** sold his stock, rented his farm, and removed to New Bloomfield; one year later, however, he returned to the farm, and remained there until he went in 1877 to Cumberland County, Pa., where he resided for six years. He has ever since resided on the homestead. He gave the cultivation of the farm his personal attention until 1889; since that time, it has been managed by his son. It is one of the finest and best cultivated farms in Centre Township. In 1880, **Mr. Fritz** undertook the sale of fertilizers, in which he is still engaged, and is also agent for mowers, reapers, and other agricultural implements. He has acted as supervisor for his township, has been on the school board for ten years, and filled other offices. He is a Republican.

Jacob Fritz was married August 21, 1856, to **Caroline**, daughter of **Abraham** and **Anna (Bonsall) Fickes**. Two of their children are deceased, an **infant**, and **Frank**, who died May 22, 1876, aged five years. The others are: **Charles; William; Richard; Hannah (Mrs. Calvin Bressler); and George**. **Mr. Fritz** is a faithful member of the Lutheran Church, in which he is a deacon.