



**Capt. William Fry**, Mexico, Walker Township, Juniata County, Pa., was born October 24, 1838, in Walker Township, Juniata County. He is a son of **Jesse** and **Martha (Kinzer) Fry**. **Jesse Fry**, of German descent, was born February 26, 1792, in Delaware Township, Juniata County. He attended a country school, but was largely a self-educated man. He taught a subscription school in Delaware Township for a number of years, and also farmed in Walker Township, on the farm now owned by **Michael Seiber**. He spent the latter part of his life retired, dying, in 1854, in Butler County, while on a visit to his children living there. He married **Miss Martha Kinzer**, born in 1797, in Delaware Township, Juniata County. They had twelve children, as follows: **Jacob**, born September 11, 1816, died in September, 1880; **Tabitha**, widow of **Enos Graham**, born June 4, 1818, resides in Crawford County, Pa.; **Lydia (Mrs. Richard McKinney)**, born July 22, 1820, died in 1884; **Isaac**, born October 22, 1822, died in the United States

army, in the Mexican war, in 1846; **Seth**, born September 15, 1825, died in infancy; **Amos**, born September 11, 1827, died September 3, 1892; **Edmund** and **Emily** (twins), born March 10, 1829, the former died in infancy, the latter married **Oliver Andrews**, of Crawford County, and died July 25, 1894; **Martha (Mrs. Samuel V. Taylor)**, born January 16, 1831, is deceased; **Jackson** and **Margaret** (twins), born October 16, 1834, the former died in July, 1855, the latter married **Peter Longacre**, and died in 1889; and **William**, of Mexico, Juniata County. **Jesse Fry** was a Democrat. He was a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, and was for many years an elder. His widow died April 11, 1873, at Millerstown, Perry County.

**Capt. William Fry** attended public schools in winter, and subscription schools in summer, until he was thirteen years of age, after which he was a driver on the tow path. He remained on the canal for five years, being steersman on the boat "Orpha" the latter part of that time, after which he worked on the Pennsylvania railroad for four years, three years with the floating gang, and one year as brakeman.

When the dark clouds of a terrible Civil war overspread over land, the nation did not appeal in vain to **William Fry**. On September 3, 1861, he enlisted for three years, in Capt. Calvin DeWitt's Company I, Forty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. William H. Irwin, commanding. He participated in the siege of Yorktown, April 1 to May 4, 1862, and in the battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862, in which he was crippled in the left arm by a horse falling on him. He was sent to Columbia College hospital, Washington, D. C, where seven weeks later, he was discharged, June 18, 1862. Returning home, he was an invalid until the following spring, when he went on the canal as steersman for his brother, **Amos**, on the boat "Merchant of Millerstown,"

employed in the grain trade between Juniata and Perry Counties and the city of Philadelphia. Here he remained one year. In 1864, he steered for Captain Kelley, of Mifflintown. In 1865, he was captain of the boat called "Gen. N. P. Banks," owned by Edwin Davis. In 1866, he had charge of the boat "Kearsarge," owned by Joseph Kemp, of Hollidaysburg. In 1867, he steered for Capt. William May, on the boat "Good Intent." In 1868-69, he owned the boat "Joseph Seller," in which he traveled over all the canals then in operation in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and New York, dealing in coal, lumber and grain. In 1870, he purchased a canal store at Liverpool, Perry County, Pa., which he conducted prosperously for five years. In 1875, he bought a wholesale drug, notion and spice boat, running between Lock Haven and Columbia, Pa., which he ran for two years. In 1877, he took charge of a store at Montandon, Northumberland County, which he superintended for one year, for J. R. Boughner. The next year he superintended a store for the same man at McAlisterville, Juniata County. In 1879, he was traveling salesman for Wood, Marsh & Co., of Philadelphia. Coming to Mexico in 1880, he opened there a general store which he conducted for two years. In 1883, he removed to Port Royal, where he lived retired, four years. In 1888, he returned to Mexico, and in the following year was elected justice of the peace, which position he has held ever since, having been re-elected in 1894, by a vote of 287 out of a total of 312, which sufficiently indicates the views of his fellow-citizens in regard to his administration of the responsible duties of the office. In 1889, he received from the court, an appointment as pension claim agent, and has been efficient and successful in the business.

**Captain Fry** was married in Walker Township, June 14, 1860, to **Miss Rebecca Horning**, born in Snyder County, daughter of **Joshua Horning**, a blacksmith of that county. The children of this marriage are: **Oliver D.**, superintendent of the store of Walter Mann, at Reedsville, Mifflin County, Pa.; **Melcora E.**, wife of **James M. Burns**, principal of the schools of Mexico, Pa.; **Joseph A.**, of Iowa; **S. Blanche**, a teacher of Patterson, Pa.; **Maude (Mrs. Harris Cooper)**, of Dauphin County; **Amos**, of Mexico, Pa.; **William C.**, of Mexico, employed in the mail service; **John E.**, who is attending school; **Laura**, living at home; **Grace**, died young; and **LeRoy**, living at home. **Captain Fry** is a member of Post No. 134, G. A. R., of Mifflintown; of Lodge No. 364, F. and A. M., at Millersburg, Pa.; of Perry Lodge, No. 259, I. O. O. F., at Liverpool, Perry County; and of the Senior O. F. A. M. He is a Republican. Of a genial disposition and universally respected, **Captain Fry** has made friends wherever he has gone during his busy and eventful life.

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