

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

**Solomon Gray**, deceased, of Madison Township, Perry County, was born June 17, 1810, in Toboyne Township, Perry County, son of **Hugh** and **Isabella (Bower) Gray**. When he was eight years old, his parents removed to Madison Township, where he finished, the education begun in the common schools of Toboyne Township. He might, indeed, be styled a self-educated man, as he owed more knowledge to his own observation and reading and his retentive memory, than to the instructions received at school. During his youth and early manhood, he was the faithful assistant of his father in the cultivation of the home farm. He enlisted for the defense of his country's flag, June 6, 1863, as a private in Company A, Twentieth Pennsylvania Cavalry, for a term of six months, during which he acted as orderly sergeant. Before moving to the seat of war, while his regiment was quartered in Cumberland County, Pa., he made a hurried trip across the mountains to visit his home. **Mr. Gray** saw active and perilous service, and had to endure exposure and hardships. He took part in several battles, among which were those of Gettysburg and of Cedar Creek. He was discharged at the expiration of his term of enlistment, January 8, 1861, and returned to his home; but in that short period he had contracted chronic rheumatism, and doubtless impaired his constitution.

**Hugh Gray**, his father, who was born March 7, 1804, died December 30, 1876, bequeathing his farm to his sons **Solomon** and **John**. In 1877 or 1878, **Solomon Gray** bought his brother's interest in the farm, and continued to cultivate it until his own death, which occurred May 21, 1895, after several years of ill health. **Mr. Gray** was decidedly Republican in his political views. He served on the school board of the township. He was very widely and favorably known in the valley; a man of kind disposition, helpful to his friends and to those in need of his assistance.

**Solomon Gray** was married, February 9, 1871, to **Lydia**, daughter of **John** and **Hannah (Balthasar) Garber**. Their children are: **Mary A.**, born December 12, 1875, resides at home; and **William Musser**, born November 25, 1878, educated in the common schools of Madison Township, cultivates the home farm. **Mrs. Lydia Gray** was born April 26, 1849; she received her education in the common schools of Madison Township; she is one of a family of nine children. **Mrs. Gray** is a member of the Reformed Church, with which **Mr. Gray** also was connected.

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