

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

David Gring, superintendent of the Newport and Shermans Valley Railroad, and extensive lumber dealer, Newport, Perry County, Pa. His grandfather, **David Gring**, was a native of Berks County, Pa., and was both farmer and miller. He accumulated a handsome property and died in his native county in 1890. The **Gring family** came originally from Holland and settled in Berks County, Pa. **David Gring** married **Catharine Hill**, who died in 1886. Their son, **Samuel H. Gring**, was born in the village of Sinking Spring, Berks County, Pa., where he attended the common schools and learned the trade of miller. He followed this vocation until 1871, when he engaged in the lumber business. He went in 1854, from Berks County to the vicinity of Denver, Lancaster County, Pa., where he owned and operated a grist-mill and tannery.

In 1871, he removed to Newville, Cumberland County, Pa., where he carried on the lumber business until 1876, at which date he removed to Reading, Pa., his present place of residence. In 1890, he began the construction of the Newport and Shermans Valley Railroad, which was completed in 1892. He also took the contract for the construction of the Path Valley Railroad, an extension of the Newport and Shermans Valley Railroad, upon which he began work in the fall of 1893, and continued until the fall of 1894, at which date he suspended work; nothing has since been done. It is proposed to resume the construction of the road in 1897, and to push it to a speedy completion. Since 1894, **Samuel H. Gring** has not been engaged in any business of his own, but is occasionally the assistant of his son, **David Gring**. He was formerly a Whig, but has been a member of the Republican Party since its organization. During the late war he served as captain of the Home Guards. His religious faith and fellowship are with the Reformed Church. He married **Catharine Hoyer**, who is still living; their children are: **David; Catharine (Mrs. Snyder)**, of Berks County, Pa.; **Lizzie**, married and resides near Reading, Pa.; and three boys and two girls who are deceased.

David Gring was born at Denver, Lancaster County, Pa., June 10, 1857, and was educated in the common schools. At the age of fourteen years he began work in his father's sawmill; he was employed continuously with his father until 1876, and went with him to Cumberland County in 1871. In the fall of 1876, he embarked in the lumber business on his own account in Huntingdon County, Pa., buying up large tracts of land in Huntingdon, Blair, Mifflin, Bedford and Juniata Counties, from which he cut the lumber. In 1881, he bought a home in Newport, which he has since remodeled. In 1886, he built the Diamond Valley Railroad, and operated it, opening up extensive lumber districts along its line. In 1891, after the lumber had been removed from these regions, he took up the railroad. **Mr. Gring** was also instrumental in promoting and building the Newport and Shermans Valley Railroad, the construction of which was begun in 1890; he became the president of the company, and still holds the office; he also became general manager of the road. He is also president of the Path Valley Railroad. In Perry County alone, he owns very extensive tracts of land. **Mr. Gring** was married, July 21, 1880, to **Miss Emma C. Caldwell**, of Renovo, Pa. Their children are: **Elizabeth; Robert Bruce; Rodney; Wilbur;** and **Edward Milton**, the twin brother of **Robert Bruce**, who died in infancy. **Mr. Gring** is a staunch Republican.