

History of York County, Biographical, Illustrated, Volume II, Chicago, J. H. Beers and Company, 1907

**Rev. William John Grissinger.** After service in the ministry for thirty years, during which time his labors took him over a large extent of the country, made him acquainted with people of high and low degree and enabled him to do a vast amount of good, the **Rev. W. J. Grissinger**, in 1904, gave up his active church work, entering then into a mercantile business in York, which he continued for eight months, and then returned to the ministry. **Mr. Grissinger** was born Jan. 16, 1844, in Huntingdon County, Pa., son of **Samuel F. Grissinger**.

**John Grissinger**, the great-grandfather of our subject, was born in Germany, and, in company with his cousin **Steven**, came to America, the latter settling in Bucks County, Pa., while **Mr. John Grissinger** settled in Lewisberry, York County. Here **John Grissinger** followed farming and died at the ripe old age of ninety eight years, being buried at St. John's Cemetery, and having at the time of his death 382 descendants, viz.; fourteen children; 138 grandchildren ; 242 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

**Adam Grissinger**, the grandfather of our subject, was born at Lewisberry, where he received his education. He followed farming near that place until the age of fifty-six years, when his death occurred. His wife, **Eva Fetrow**, died at the age of ninety two years, in Fulton County, where she is buried. This couple were the parents of these children **Barbara** married **Charles Rinehart**; **Catherine** married **Rev. Lauer**, the United Presbyterian clergyman, at Evansville, Ind.; **Rebecca** married **Sam Gladfelter**, of Fulton County; **Martha** died young; **John F.** married **Margaret McNeal**; **Samuel F.**; **Martin F.** married **Julia Ann Parks**; **Andrew G.** married **Rebecca Slates**; **Daniel Levi** married **Isabella Foust**.

**Samuel F. Grissinger** was born in 1823, in Lewisberry, where he received a common school education. In 1843 he married **Mary McNeal** of Huntingdon County. **Mr. Grissinger** owned a farm in this county of 140 acres, near Three Springs, which he later sold. In 1870 he purchased a farm in Fulton County, which he worked until his death in 1900, his wife dying six months prior. Their children were: **William John**; **Martin A.** died in 1886; **James Levi**, living in Fulton County, married **Elizabeth Brightenstine**, deceased; **Margaret Jane** married **Oliver Ezra Cook**, a prominent farmer at Cook's Station, Huntingdon County; **Mary Ellen** married **John Ehrenfield**, whose brother is the supervisor of a branch of the Pennsylvania railroad at Crescent, Blair County; **Rebecca E.** married **J. Franklin Pierce McClain**; **Julia Bell** married **C. H. E. Plumer**, and lives at North Point, Huntingdon County; **Rachel Alice** died at the age of eighteen years and **Frances E. Etta** married **John Ramsay**, and lives at Altoona.

**William John Grissinger** received his first schooling in Huntingdon County, afterward taking one term in a graded school under Professor Miller. He then went to Millersville, Lancaster County, for the terms of 1863-64, and later taught school in Indiana. From there he went to Illinois where he engaged in farming, and was married at Mt. Carroll, Ill., in 1865, to **Catherine Chitty**, daughter of **Benjamin** and **Eliza (Templeman) Chitty**. Here **Mr. Grissinger** followed farming for four years, and engaged in well drilling for one year. In 1869 he located in Pennsylvania, and took up school teaching, and in the following year his father bought a store, in which the son clerked for seven years. At the age of thirty years, **Mr. Grissinger** began studying

for the ministry, and in 1876 was licensed and ordained a minister of the Church of God. His first charge was at Newport, Perry County, in 1876, where he served two years, and his charges were as follows: Clearfield Mission, at Clearfield, for one year; Newville and Plainfield, Cumberland County, two years; Newport, for six months; Goldsboro and Newberrytown, Yocumtown and Smoketown, for three years; Landisburg, three years; Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, two years; Mount Joy, three years; Altoona, four years; Harrisburg, two years; Goldsboro, three more years, and in 1900 he took charge of the West Poplar Street Church, where he remained until 1904. On Feb. 11, 1905, the **Rev. Mr. Grissinger** engaged in the mercantile business at No. 227 East Philadelphia Street, buying out the business of the Rex. Long, and he continued in business until September of the same year, closing out and returning to the ministry; his present charge is Hanover, York County.

To the **Rev. Mr. Grissinger** and his wife the following children have been born: **Samuel C.**, who married **Emma Cannon**, of Highspire, Dauphin Co., Pa.; **B. Frank**, whose sketch will be found elsewhere; **Clarence Rudolph**; **Carrie Alice Juanita**, living at home; and **Oliver L.**, engaged with his brother, **B. Frank**, and married to **Mabel A. Swartz**.

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