

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

William B. Gutshall, Blain, Perry County, Pa., was born near Blain, Jackson Township. Perry County, November 24, 1837. He is a son of **Daniel** and **Sarah (Bower) Gutshall**. His grandparents, **George** and **Barbara (Spohn) Gutshall**, were natives of Berks County, Pa. They removed to Cumberland, now Perry County, and bought a homestead situated on Shermans Creek, Jackson Township, about two and a half miles west of Blain. Their son, **Daniel**, born in 1808, was educated in a subscription school in Jackson Township, where he was taught very little English. When a young man, he worked as a farm laborer in Juniata County, for **William Okeson**, and other farmers of the neighborhood. **Mr. Gutshall** began farming on his own account in Jackson Township, west of Blain. He afterwards sold his property and bought his father's farm on Sherman Creek. Here he built a new house and bank barn, and made many other improvements; by careful and intelligent cultivation, he so increased the value of his property that it was considered one of the finest farms in the valley. In 1869, he bought an adjoining tract of land, which he improved in the same judicious manner; this farm is now owned by his son, **William B.** Later, he retired from farm life and removed to Blain. He was a just and conscientious man, highly esteemed by his neighbors. Interested in all the affairs of the township, he was always actively engaged in local politics, and was a Democrat of the true Jeffersonian type.

Mr. Daniel Gutshall was married to **Sarah**, daughter of **Abraham** and **Jane Bower**. They have twelve children: **Jane (Mrs. John Tressler)**, of Jackson Township; **Mary (Mrs. George Kern)**, of Toboyne Township; **William B.**; **Solomon B.**, married **Margaret Waggoner**; **Caroline (Mrs. Amos Watts)**, of Oliver Township; **Wilson**, an employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, married **Sarah Dravenstadt**, of Harrisburg, Pa.; **Abraham**, has resided at Pueblo, Col., for more than twenty years, and is engineer on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad; **Sarah (Mrs. David Bower)**, of New Bloomfield; **Henry**, married **Mary Johnson**, died from the effects of a kick from a horse; **Diana (Mrs. Wilson Morrison)**, of Toboyne Township; **George W.**, married **Miss Bennett**, of Juniata County, resides on the homestead in Jackson Township; and **Melinda**, died in 1865, aged eleven. **Mr. Daniel Gutshall** and his wife were devout members of the Lutheran Church. He died at the age of seventy-seven; his wife died in 1878, aged seventy-nine.

William B. Gutshall grew up on the homestead, attending the public schools of the township when he could be spared from home. He began farming for himself. May 6, 1869, in Shermans Valley, on land belonging to his father, and four years later removed to the homestead, where he remained for seven years. In 1880, he purchased a home, and after his father's death, bought additional land, which he improved and cultivated until 1891; he then retired from farm life, and removed to Blain. He formed a partnership with **William Bower** and they opened a warehouse as commission merchants; they were also the agents of the Newport and Shermans Valley Railroad at Blain. **Mr. Gutshall** shared his father's political views, and has always been a Democrat. He is prominent in local politics and has held various borough offices. In 1896 he was nominated for the office of county commissioner and was elected by a good majority.

William B. Gutshall was married, in 1869, to **Emma**, daughter of **Benjamin Rice**. They have no children, but with true generous benevolence, **Mr. Gutshall** has shared his comfortable home with two children, his wards, whom he has cared for and educated. **Mr. Gutshall** and his wife are members of the Lutheran church at Blain, Pa.