

James B. Hackett, (7 Sep 1819 – 28 Sep 1896), Perry County Democrat, September 30, 1896;
James B. Hackett Dead.

Our tried and true old friend, and for many years a political adviser and earnest counselor in whom we had great confidence, is dead.

He was born in N. W. Madison Township, this county, now Sandy Hill district, on Sept. 7, 1819, the year before Perry was separated from Cumberland and erected into a county.

He received his education in the common schools and at the Bloomfield Academy. The family moved to Elliottsburg when the subject of this sketch was quite young. In his early manhood he was a successful school teacher, after which he engaged in the mercantile business and took considerable interest in military affairs. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant of the Elliottsburg Light Infantry May 4, 1846, and Captain of the Perry County Cavalry Aug. 28, 1847, by Gov. Francis R. Shunk.

On July 1, 1852, under the administration of President Filmore, he was awarded the contract to carry the first daily mail between Landisburg and Newport, by the way of Andesville, (now Loysville), Green Park, Elliottsburg and Bloomfield. Later he disposed of this contract to Z. Rice, Sr., by whom and his sons it was successfully operated until the advent of railroads, a few years ago.

He was an excellent practical surveyor and late in the fifties was appointed one of a corps of engineers to locate the boundary lines between Perry and adjoining counties. He served several terms as county surveyor and also acted as deputy in the offices of sheriff, prothonotary, register and recorder and county treasurer.

In politics he was an ardent Democrat, adroit, capable, aggressive and far-seeing, and as chairman of the Democratic county committee for several campaigns was untiring in his efforts to advance the interests of his party. Until old age arrived and his health became impaired he rarely failed to attend a State convention and for the past thirty years was present at nearly every National Convention. In his religious belief he was a Presbyterian and a consistent member of that faith until the day of his demise.

The last public position he held was that of a clerkship in the office of the Secretary of Internal Affairs, at Harrisburg, under **Hon. J. Simpson Africa**, who was a warm personal friend.

In addition to his other duties he prosecuted a large and successful fire insurance business.

As a surveyor, he was familiar with every original line in the county and there is in his office today a draft, of every tract of land in the county.

After a long and useful life he died at 5.05 o'clock Monday morning at his residence in this borough. His death was calm and peaceful. Funeral services will be held at his late residence in this place at 9.30 a. m. on Thursday of this week and his remains will then be interred in the Centre Church burial ground, a spot he always loved.

It is with heartfelt regret we announce the death of so true a friend and the remembrance of his many kind services will live in our heart until its last beat in consciousness has been recorded.