

Biographical Annals of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania; Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens and of Many of the Early Settled Families. Illustrated. Chicago: The Genealogical Publishing Co., 1905.

John S. Hamilton, of Lower Allen Township, has been a prominent citizen of his section of Cumberland County in more ways than one. For fifty years he engaged in contracting, doing general carpenter and mill work, and he has also become well known in political circles, and as justice of the peace.

Mr. Hamilton was born April 22, 1833, in Lower Allen Township, at the old Heidlebaugh oil mill, on Yellow Breeches Creek. His ancestors came from Scotland to America at an early day, and his grandfather, **Hugh Hamilton**, was born in Berks County, Pa. When a young man he went to York County, Pa., and there married, in 1806, **Elizabeth Thorley**, who was born Dec. 23, 1787, in Newberry Township, that county, and was reared there. **Mr. Hamilton** located for a time in what is now New Cumberland, Cumberland County, and thence removed to Fairview Township, York County, where he passed the remainder of his days, following his trade, that of shoemaker, until his death, Nov. 11, 1820. His widow subsequently married, on Oct. 9, 1831, **John Orris**, and they both died in York County, she on Dec. 3, 1862. She was a devout Winebrennerian in religious faith. To **Hugh and Elizabeth (Thorley) Hamilton** were born children as follows: (1) **Thomas**, born April 24, 1807, married **Salome Shell**. (2) **Abraham**, born Nov. 16, 1809, married **Mary Groff**, and died in Lower Allen Township; his widow still survives. (3) **John**, born April 13, 1812, married **Miss Margaret Stuoey**. He engaged in the dry-goods business at Lisburn (Cumberland County), Hogestown, Carlisle and Lewistown (Mifflin County), at which latter place he died Sept. 20, 1879. (4) **William**, born Jan. 13, 1815, died before attaining his majority. (5) **Mary**, born Nov. 20, 1817, married **John Roush**, of Perry County, Pa., and died July 9, 1870. (6) **Sarah Jane**, born Feb. 12, 1821, married **John McLaughlin**, and died Jan. 1, 1893. By her marriage to **Mr. Orris** the mother of this family had one child, which died young.

Thomas Hamilton, born April 24, 1807, in New Cumberland, Cumberland County, grew to manhood in Fairview Township, York County, and was reared to farming. His education was received entirely in the subscription schools common in that day. During his early manhood he hauled whiskey, store goods and hogs to Baltimore, and he also learned the carpenter's trade, contracting in which line he commenced on his own account after his marriage. He became widely known as a skilled mechanic, and his services were much in demand throughout his section, his work being found on many buildings in York and Cumberland Counties. In 1833 he helped to put up the Gorgas Building, in Lower Allen Township. In the year 1832 **Mr. Hamilton** married **Salome Shell**, daughter of **Andrew Shell**, in Fairview Township, York County, where they made their home and he died there Oct. 19, 1882. **Mrs. Hamilton** passed away Jan. 4, 1891. She was a Lutheran in religious faith, and **Mr. Hamilton** belonged to the German Reformed Church, being a constant attendant at church services and the organizer of the first Sabbath-school in Fairview Township, in which he taught for some time. **Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton** had children as follows: (1) **John S.**, the oldest, is mentioned below. (2) **William**, born March 18, 1835, married **Miss Fanny Warner**, who is now deceased, and he resides in New Cumberland. (3) **Andrew**, born Nov. 6, 1836, married **Mrs. Martha E. Carothers**, and in 1865 they went to Illinois. In 1902 they moved to Kansas, where they now live in Oswego. (4) **Keziah**, born May 31, 1841, died in infancy. (5) **Mary Ann**, born Nov. 15, 1843, is unmarried. (6) **Elizabeth Hamilton**, born Aug. 13, 1846, became the wife of **Zaccheus Spong**, of Cumberland County,

who enlisted June 15, 1863, becoming a private in Company D, 20th Pa. Cav., for six months' service. He died Nov. 2, 1896, and his widow lives in Wormleysburg, Cumberland County. (7) **Hugh**, born April 25, 1849, died in infancy. (8) **Catherine Salome**, born Feb. 5, 1852, married **David Eshelman**, of Lemoyne.

John S. Hamilton commenced his education in the public schools of Fairview Township, first attending three months a year, and later four months a year. After reaching his twelfth year he commenced to work as farm boy during vacations, at first earning two and a half dollars a month, with **Adam Zinn**, of Fairview Township. The next year he received five dollars a month, and the year following he received nine. He did farm work for four years, after which he worked at the carpenter's trade one year with his father. For the next two years he continued his apprenticeship under **Philip Shell**, of Mifflin Township, Cumberland County, finishing his trade the following year with his brother **David Shell**. The first house he put up on his own account was in Fairview Township, and he continued contracting for fifty years, doing mill work as well as carpentering, for the mills along Yellow Breeches Creek. He put in many overshot wheels, and did other mill work, proving as able in that line as in the work that belonged strictly to his line of business. In 1855 he helped to build the **Samuel Hertzler** home, which stands next to his present home, and many other fine residences and barns in this section testify to his skill and to the large patronage he enjoyed. In 1868 **Mr. Hamilton** was appointed whiskey ganger by the United States Government and served as such for two years and ten months; his appointment was received from President Johnson, through the influence of Henry G. Moser, Associate Judge of Cumberland County, and Richard Halderman, Congressman at that time. For six years he was a member of the township school board, during five years of the time serving as secretary of that body. In 1890 he was elected justice of the peace, and he has held that office continuously ever since, the present year being the fourth of his third term. He has found time for public service in spite of his active business life, and has been a lifelong member of the Democratic Party, in whose interests he has worked hard and late from early manhood. His first vote was cast for President Pierce. He has been county committeeman, has missed but few primaries, and has missed only one election since he reached his majority; that was during the Civil war. He enlisted at Harrisburg March 15, 1865, for one year, in Company D, 101st P. V. I., and was mustered out in Newbern, N. C., after five months' service; he received his discharge at Harrisburg. In 1869 **Mr. Hamilton** joined Bethel Church, in Fairview Township, York County, and has retained his membership with same to the present.

On Nov. 12, 1854, **Mr. Hamilton** was united in marriage, in Mechanicsburg, with **Miss Elizabeth Frysinger**, who was born in Monaghan Township, York County, daughter of **Daniel** and **Susan Bishop (Vorther) Frysinger**, farming people. To **Mr.** and **Mrs. Hamilton** have been born children as follows: (1) **Clara**, born Oct. 6, 1855, married **William Naylor**, and died in Fairview Township. (2) **Agnes**, born April 21, 1857, died in infancy. (3) **Thomas**, born Jan. 8, 1859, married **Mary Feese**, and they live in Steelton, Pa. (4) **Melissa**, born Nov. 6, 1861, is the wife of **John Noel**, of New Cumberland, Pa. (5) **Martha E.**, born June 13, 1862, died in infancy. (6) **Cordelia F.**, born Sept. 26, 1863, married **Eli Thorley**, and they live in Chicago, Ill. (7) **Daniel**, born Oct. 19, 1865, married **Mary Prowell**, and their home is in Riverton, Cumberland County. (8) **Jennie M.**, born Aug. 16, 1867, died in infancy.