

Biographical and Portrait Cyclopaedia of Schuylkill County Pennsylvania Comprising A Historical Sketch of the County by Samuel T. Wiley, Author of Histories of Niagara County, New York; Preston and Monongalia Counties, West Virginia; Fayette, Westmorland, Blair, Indiana and Armstrong Counties, Pennsylvania, Etc.; Together with about Five Hundred and Fifty Biographical Sketches of the Prominent Men and Leading Citizens of the County Carefully Revised and Edited by Henry W. Ruoff; Illustrated; Rush, West and Company, Publishers, Philadelphia, PA 1893



**George H. Helfrich**, cashier of the Citizens' National Bank at Ashland, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, is one of the substantial and enterprising citizens of Schuylkill County. He is a son of **Daniel** and **Margaret (Bock) Helfrich**, and was born October 6, 1833, in Maxatawney Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The grandfather of **George H.**, on the paternal side, was **John H. Helfrich**, a native of Germany, who emigrated to the United States in the year 1772, and first located in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. He was a minister of the German Reformed church, and as such was sent to this country as a missionary to promulgate the cause of liberal Protestantism. The scene of his labor was the northeastern part of Lehigh County, where he zealously devoted himself to the work of organizing and ministering to the churches of that vicinity. The entire span of his life was devoted to the work of infusing a religious spirit and in the upbuilding of the Christian cause in his adopted country. He died on the 5th of December, 1810.

**Daniel Helfrich**, father, was born in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, on March 7, 1785, where he continued to live until about 1815, when he removed to Maxatawney Township, Berks County, where he purchased some land and undertook its cultivation. After pursuing the vocation of a farmer for some years, he added that of a merchant, and as such did a prosperous business. He was twice married. His first wife was **Maria Hoch**, by whom he had a family of eight children. His second wife was **Margaret Bock**, the mother of **George H.**, and of seven other children.

**George H. Helfrich** was united in marriage on the 17th of October, 1854, to **Margaret Slaughterbach**, a daughter of **Jacob Slaughterbach**, a native of Perry County, Pennsylvania. By this marriage they have five children, two of whom are living, **Clara M.** and **Annie M.** **Mr. Helfrich** is practically a self-educated man, having had the advantages of but a few years in the common schools of his native county. In starting out upon his career in life, he first accepted a position as a clerk in a store, in which capacity he was engaged for a number of years, when he

became a bookkeeper for the mercantile establishment of **Emanuel Bast**, at Minersville, Pennsylvania. In 1856 he accepted the position of bookkeeper for the Big Mine Run colliery of Schuylkill County, which position he filled acceptably for a continuous term of nineteen years. In 1875 the Citizens' National Bank of Ashland was organized, upon the organization of which **Mr. Helfrich** was offered the position of cashier, which he accepted. He has since this time been connected with the bank as one of its trusted and most efficient officers. Politically he is a Republican of the staunchest type, and has served as a school director in Ashland for a period of ten years.

Fraternally, he belongs to Ashland Lodge No. 294, F. and A. M., of which he was secretary for a term of twenty-seven years, and for which term of, continuous service he received a handsome gold medal from the lodge in recognition of his fidelity and faithfulness, and is now its treasurer. He also belongs to Griscom Chapter, No. 219, R. A. M., Prince of Peace Commandery, No. 39, K. T., Consistory of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry, and Lu Lu Temple at Philadelphia. Besides these he belongs to Locust Mountain Lodge, No. 538, I. O. O. F., in which he has served thirty-four years as secretary, and is now its treasurer.

**Mr. Helfrich** is highly esteemed by his fellow-townsmen as an exemplary citizen, and a good business man of undoubted integrity.

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