

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

M. E. Heller, telegraph operator for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, West Newport, Perry County, Pa., son of **Martin L.** and **Elizabeth (Reynolds) Heller**, was born at Thompsontown, Juniata County, Pa., July 10, 1858. His grandfather, **John Heller**, was born in Adams County, Pa., and there spent his life in farming; his death occurred in the early sixties. His wife's family name was **Warren**; she lived to the venerable age of over ninety years, her death occurring in the spring of 1896. **Martin Luther Heller**, father of **M. E. Heller**, was born in Adams County, Pa., in 1828. When a young man, he came to Juniata County, where he was an iron moulder, but subsequently found employment on the railroad as a section hand, and after a few years' service in this capacity, was advanced to the position of foreman, in charge of the Thompsontown division, which post he occupied until his death in 1879. He was reliable and skillful, and the work put into his charge was always done in a manner most satisfactory to his employers. **Mr. Heller** was a Democrat. He married **Miss Elizabeth Reynolds**, who survives him, and lives at Thompsontown. Their children are: **James W.**, book-keeper, residing at Colorado Springs, Col.; **M. E.**; **George McAlleland**, telegraph operator at Thompsontown; **John** and two other children are deceased. **Mr. Heller's** religious faith was that of the Methodist Church.

M. E. Heller received his earliest instruction in the common schools of his native place; later, during two summer terms, he attended the State Normal School at Millerstown, Pa., under Prof. Silas Wright, and during three summer terms, the Normal School at Mifflintown, under Messrs. Garman and Harman.

Mr. Garman is at present chairman of the State Democratic Committee. Upon the completion of his education, **Mr. Heller** was employed in the railroad freight office at Thompsontown, but not finding the duties of the position congenial to him, he gave up the place and learned telegraphy, receiving a part of his training at Tuscarora and completing his preparation at Mifflin, Pa. The same day, on which he completed this course, he received orders to come to Harrisburg, Pa., in order to be examined as to his proficiency and competency for the work of telegraphy. Having creditably sustained this examination, he was taken into the service of the company and was sent first to Tuscarora; thence for two weeks to Thompsontown; thence for a short time to Petersburg, and thence to McVeytown, where he remained a short time, he was then assigned to a permanent position as extra man on the Middle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. After three months in this place, he was appointed to his present position, and was later sent to Narrows, where he was continuously employed from July, 1880, to March, 1887. On the latter date, he accepted the appointment to the position he now holds, the duties of which he has efficiently and acceptably performed up to the present time. By his skill and reliability he has won and retains the utmost respect and confidence of his employers. His political views are Democratic. His name is not on the roll of any church organization, but he adopts the Golden Rule as the law of all his transactions.

Mr. Heller was married in 1879, to **Miss Lizzie Hall**, daughter of **Peter Hall**, of Greenwood Township, Perry County. Their children are: **Pearl Elizabeth**; **Olive May**; and **Banks Keifer**.