

A History of the Juniata Valley and its People Under The Editorial Supervision of John W. Jordan, LL.D.; Librarian of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Illustrated; New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company; 1913; Volume II

The **Hertzlers** of Port Royal, Pennsylvania, descend from **Jacob Hertzler**, a Swiss emigrant, and date their Pennsylvania history from the year 1749. During the fifth generation in the Juniata Valley the family have been substantial and highly regarded citizens, and while usually agriculturalists, have also been prominent in business life, in the Mennonite Church and in public affairs, sitting in state councils as legislators, and presiding over churches as ministers and bishops.

**Jacob Hertzler** was born of Swiss parents, in Switzerland, in 1703. He grew to manhood in his mountain home, became a farmer, and a minister of the Amish Mennonite Church. He married, but his wife died early, leaving him a son **John**. He then married a second wife, **Catherine**, and moved to the German Palatinate, now Bavaria, part of the German Empire. He resided there several years, but finally was driven by religious persecution to seek a home in America. He sailed on the ship "St. Andrew" from Rotterdam, touching at Plymouth, England, and arriving at Philadelphia September 9, 1749. He settled on a farm in Berne Township, Lancaster, now Upper Berne Township, Berks County, two miles west of Hamburg. This he purchased from the proprietaries, **Richard** and **Thomas Penn**, warrant dated January 9, 1750, price stated one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, name of the tract, "Contentment," its area one hundred and eighty-two acres and thirty perches. In 1752 he purchased one hundred and ten acres; in 1765, thirty-six acres; in 1766, forty-four acres; and in 1773, thirty acres with odd perches in each tract, the whole totaling four hundred four acres, four perches, which he improved. On August 30, 1773, he divided his lands among his children—**John**, **Jacob**, **Christian** and **Fanny**, the latter wife of **John Kauffman**. **Catherine**, his second wife, died between August 30, 1773, when she is known to have been alive, and March 4, 1774, when it is known she was dead. **Jacob**, the Swiss emigrant, died in the year 1786, later than March 20. Both are buried in the Amish Mennonite burial ground, two miles west of Hamburg, Pennsylvania; their graves were unmarked, as was the custom of that faith, until 1911, when suitable granite monuments were erected by their descendants. The sons of **Jacob**, having taken the oath of allegiance to the King of England, consequently took no active part in the revolution, refusing, as did all the Amish Mennonites, to break their oath.

(II) **Jacob** (2), first son of **Jacob** (1) **Hertzler** by his second wife, was born in 1733, came to Pennsylvania with his parents in 1749, and became a prosperous farmer of Berks County, as then considered. He was a member of the Amish Mennonite Church and a good man. He married, in 1773, **Barbara Yoder**, who died in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, in 1821. He died in April, 1795; children: **Daniel** (of whom further); **John**, married **Catherine Yoder**; **David**, married **Catherine Reichenbach**; **Barbara**, married **John Stutzman**; **Samuel**, died unmarried, and seven children who died young.

(III) **Daniel**, eldest son of **Jacob** and **Barbara (Yoder) Hertzler**, was born in Upper Berne Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, June 26, 1774, and there grew to manhood. He was married in 1803, and in 1804 moved to a farm in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He lived on his farm of one hundred and thirty acres in Lancaster County until

after the birth of his twelve children, then sold and moved to Juniata County, Pennsylvania, where he settled in Turbett Township, April 5, 1834. He then purchased from **Jacob Rice** a tract of two hundred thirteen acres, on which he erected suitable buildings for the comfort of his family and the proper conduct of his business, including a wool factory and a saw mill for the production of finished lumber. He was a man of superior attainments, was educated in both English and German, and was of the strictest integrity and universally respected. He was a man of industry and economy, and trained his sons in these same sterling virtues. In early life he acted with the Democratic Party, but in 1828 became a Whig, voting and working with that party until his death. Like his sires, he was a member of the Amish Mennonite Church, strictly observing the austere faith of that denomination. He died in Turbett Township, March 23, 1848. He married, in November, 1803, **Barbara Zug (Zook)**, born January 25, 1778, daughter of **Rev. Christian** and **Magdalene (Blank) Zug**, of Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, both descendants of Swiss Mennonite families. She survived her husband and died at the Turbett Township farm, December 29, 1852; children: **Christian**, married **Christianna Shirk**; **Jacob**, married **Christianna Kepner**; **Henry**, married **Sarah Hertzler**; **Solomon**, married **Mary Trago**; **Daniel**, married **Mary Weaver**; **David**, married **Phoebe A. Kauffman**; **Noah** (of further mention); **Magdalene**, married **Casper Schwartzantruber**; **Nancy**, married **Jacob Kurtz**; **Samuel**; a child, died in infancy, and **John**. The last survivors of this family were **John** and **Magdalene**.

(IV) **Noah**, son of **Daniel** and **Barbara (Zug) Hertzler**, was born in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1815, died in Old Port Royal, Juniata County, June 6, 1887. He obtained a good education in both German and English, and grew to manhood as his father's farm assistant. He came with the family to Turbett Township, Juniata County, in 1834, and remained at the home farm until he was aged twenty-three years. He then, in company with two of his brothers, opened a general country store which they successfully conducted for several years. He then bought out his partners and conducted the business alone until his death. He dealt heavily in grain and, in addition to his mercantile business, owned and conducted several fertile farms. He possessed unusual business qualifications, and his enterprise carried him into channels of business hitherto unknown in the family. He invested in banks and held directorships in the Juniata Valley Bank of Mifflintown and the Port Royal Branch Bank. He took a deep interest in public affairs, held many township offices, and was a candidate for the legislature. He was a zealous supporter of the Republican Party, and while departing from the religious faith of his forbears, was a consistent member of the Lutheran Church. His name was a synonym for integrity, and dying he left to his children an unsullied character, in addition to a generous store of earthly possessions.

He married, in 1845, **Susan Garman**, born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1817, died December 10, 1901, daughter of **John Garman**, an early settler of Dauphin County, later moved to Perry County, where he owned two good farms aggregating four hundred acres, there lived and died. He married **Catherine Wallower**, and both are buried in the churchyard of the Hill Church Cemetery in Turbett Township, Juniata County, both having been members of that church. Children of **John Garman**: **Catherine**, married **John Steece**, and died at "The Aqueduct," Perry County; **Mary**, married **Dr. David Alter**, and died in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; **Susan**, married **Noah Hertzler** (of previous mention); **John**, a farmer, died in Harrisburg. Children of **Noah Hertzler**: 1. **John G.**, born November 23, 1848; now a merchant

at Old Port, a village near Port Royal; married **Euphenia Groninger**. 2. **David**, born December 4, 1850; now a manufacturer of Philadelphia; married **Eliza A. Wolford**. 3. **Mary Alice**, born January 11, 1854; married **James N. Groninger**, a millwright, and resides at Old Port. 4. **William**, of whom further.



(V) **William**, youngest son of **Noah** and **Susan (Garman) Hertzler**, was born in Turbett Township, Juniata County, Pennsylvania, July 7, 1858. He was educated in the public schools of the township, Air View Academy, and Washington and Jefferson College, from which latter institution he graduated with the class of 1881. He chose the profession of law, and began his study under the Honorable Lewis E. Atkinson, but his father's health failing, he was obliged to abandon all thought of a professional career. With his brother, **John G. Hertzler**, he then assumed charge of his father's affairs, since which time he has been entirely engaged in business and political affairs. At the death of his father he was appointed one of the executors of his estate and ably administered that important trust. He is a lifelong Republican, and dates his active political life from the year 1881, when he was elected chairman of the Republican county committee, being then but twenty-two years of age, and the youngest county chairman in the state. He held the same position in 1882, and in 1888 had become so well and favorably known that he was chosen to represent his district in the general assembly, being the only Republican elected on the

ticket that year, and triumphing by a majority of two hundred and ninety-seven votes. He was renominated in 1890, but in that year was defeated with the entire Republican ticket, though he was defeated by only one hundred and forty-nine votes.

In 1889 **Mr. Hertzler** was nominated by the Republicans of Juniata County for member of the constitutional convention, but declined the honor. In 1892 he secured the endorsement of the Juniata County convention, though not that of the Republican district convention, for state senator; but in 1896 he was again a candidate for the office, and, receiving both the necessary endorsements, was elected to represent the counties of Juniata, Mifflin, and Perry, constituting the thirty-first senatorial district, by a majority of nine hundred and twenty-seven votes. His record in both the lower and upper houses of the state legislature was one of fearless advocacy of the rights of the people and of devotion to the interests of his constituents. He served on important committees, and by his course in the case of needed legislation gained state-wide fame. On January 1, 1902, during the second session of the Fifty seventh Congress, he was appointed clerk of the committee on war claims of the National House of Representatives by the Hon. Thaddeus M. Mahon, M.C., and served under that appointment five years. He was then reappointed by Hon. Kittridge Haskins, M.C., of Vermont, and served under that appointment in the first and second sessions of the Sixtieth Congress and the first session of the Sixty-first

Congress, a total service of seven years and five months, his term expiring August 6, 1909. During his congressional committee service he was also private secretary to the Hon. Thaddeus M. Mahon, M.C., until 1907, and to Congressman Benjamin K. Folk until July, 1911, when he was appointed deputy secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which important office he now holds.

Since 1901 **Senator Hertzler** has served as director of the First National Bank of Mifflintown, and in 1909 was chosen president of that well-known and stable institution. He is a prominent member of the Masonic order, being a past master of Union Lodge, No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, at Mifflintown, and past high priest Newport Chapter, No. 238, Royal Arch Masons, at Newport; and is a member of Lewiston Commandery, No. 26, Knights Templar, at Lewistown; and Zemblo Shrine, Ancient Accepted Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is also a thirty-second degree Mason of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, belonging to Harrisburg Consistory. His other orders are the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Mifflintown, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Lewistown. He is interested in all that pertains to the good of the community, especially the cause of education, to which he devoted five years' service on the school board. His life has been a busy and useful one, and few men can point with more just pride to a lifework now just in its prime.

**Senator Hertzler** is married to **Miss Mollie M. Kaufman**, a daughter of the late **Kurtz Kaufman**, and a member of an old Mifflintown family, their union being blessed with one son, **Penrose**, born August 15, 1898, and now a student in the Lewistown Preparatory School. The family home is at Port Royal, Pennsylvania, near where **Jacob Hertzler** first settled in 1834.

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