

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

John A. Hilbish, New Buffalo, Perry County, Pa., was born February 12, 1843, in the borough of Liverpool, Perry County, in the old stone house now occupied by **Mr. Brown**. His great grandfather was an immigrant from Germany, who landed in this country in 1790, settled first in Montgomery County, Pa., and afterwards removed to Freeburg, Pa. There the father of **John A. Hilbish** was born, and did not remove to Liverpool until after his marriage. He learned the business of tanning while he was a young man, and was engaged in that calling until after his removal to Montgomery's Ferry, in 1848. He bought a hotel and a farm at the Ferry, and conducted both until his death in 1850. **Mrs. Hilbish** then gave up the hotel, and resided during the rest of her life upon her farm. She died in 1872, in her fifty-eighth year; she was born in Freeburg, Snyder County, Pa. Their children are: **Sarah C. (Mrs. William Moyer)**, of Freeburg; **Henry J.**, died in 1850; **John A.**; **Zachariah T.**, farmer, of Kansas, was a soldier in the Union army in the late war; and one child, a **boy**, who died in infancy. When his parents removed to Montgomery's Ferry, **John A. Hilbish** was about five years old; here he acquired the rudiments of his education, and afterwards studied one year in the Normal School at Freeburg, supplementing these studies by a course at the academy at New Berlin, Pa. Having completed his scholastic training, he devoted his attention to his mother's farm, which he cultivated for her until his enlistment; that is, for about five years. In the fall of 1864, **Mr. Hilbish** enlisted at Harrisburg, Pa., in Company I, Two Hundred and Eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers, as a private. The regiment was immediately ordered to the front; for a short time it was on provost guard at City Point, Va., then on picket duty before Petersburg, Va. After this it took part in the Black Water raid, which lasted about two days; was then ordered back to Petersburg, and on March 25, 1865, was in the battle of Fort Steadman. After the battle of Fort Sedgwick, April 2, 1865, it followed the southern army toward Richmond, but while on the road was ordered to Alexandria, Va., and after doing camp duty for two weeks, was sent to Harrisburg, Pa.; here the men received their discharge, and were mustered out June 1, 1865. **Mr. Hilbish** was slightly wounded in the left foot by a minie ball at the battle of Fort Steadman. For a short time after his return home, he managed his mother's farm. He then bought the old Montgomery farm at the Ferry, which he cultivated for two years, then sold it, and for about three years occupied and farmed a part of the homestead. He then bought his present place, which contains 150 acres of good arable land. By careful and judicious management, he has made constant and steady advances in prosperity. He has built a new bam, and has his farm in a thriving and productive condition. He is a director in the Bank of Duncannon. **Mr. Hilbish** is a Democrat; he has been called by his fellow-citizens to render various public services; has served three years as supervisor, ten years as school director, and nine years as assessor, which last position he still holds. He is a worthy and highly respected citizen, and well merits his prosperity and his position in the community.

John A. Hilbish was married, June 7, 1871, to **Mary J.**, daughter of **Ross** and **Eliza (Arnold) Finton**, who was born in Buffalo Township, August 23, 1846. Their children are: **Arthur T.**, married **Dora Liddick**, resides in Watts Township; **Bertha May**, educated in the common schools and at the high school of Duncannon; **Earle Edwin**; **Anna J.**; **William B.**; **Edna P.**; and **Philip Roy**, all residing with their parents except the eldest. **Mrs. Hilbish** is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and **Mr. Hilbish**, while he is not a member of any church, prefers the same denomination.