

Biographical Annals Lancaster County Pennsylvania. A Biographical and Genealogical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens and Many of the Early Settlers, Illustrated, Publishers: J. H. Beers & Co, 1903

Emanuel F. Hostetter, one of Manheim's most active and enterprising business men, as well as one of its representative citizens, is a native of Lancaster County, born on the **Hostetter** homestead, in Penn Township, May 24.1835. and a son of **John** and **Elizabeth (Forney) Hostetter**, now deceased, the former having died in 1865, the latter in 1867.

John Hostetter was a son of **Jacob Hostetter**, a Mennonite minister, was born and reared on a farm in Penn Township and throughout life followed farming. He was also one of the heaviest cattle dealers of his day and for twenty years was engaged in that business, buying his stock in the West and shipping it to Lancaster County for distribution. He was also one of the most progressive men of his time, was instrumental in securing the building of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad through this section, and became a heavy stockholder in it. For years he was a director in the Lancaster County National Bank, and was one of the organizers of the Manheim National Bank, of which he was also a director. During the 50's he divided his farm between his two sons, **John** and **Ephraim**, and purchased the Manheim mill from **John Bosler**, which he conducted for some ten years, at the same time owning and operating a mill and distillery near Liverpool, Perry Co., Pa. About 1860 he retired from active life and lived quietly in Manheim until his death. Politically he was at first a strong Whig and later a Republican. He was twice married, his first wife being a **Miss Stauffer**, by whom he had three children: **Henry S.**, a resident of Penn Township, Lancaster County; **Elizabeth**, deceased wife of **T. L. Stehman**. of Lititz ; and **Sarah**, widow of **Daniel Grosh**, of the same place. The father's second wife was **Miss Elizabeth Forney**, a daughter of **John Forney**, who lived near Brownstown, and to them were born five children, namely: **Emanuel F.**; **Benjamin**, who died in childhood; **John F.**, a farmer, now deceased; **Ephraim**, who has been proprietor of "Hotel Superior" in Chicago Ill., since 1890; and **Maria**, deceased wife of **John Kurtz**.

Emanuel F. Hostetter was reared on the home farm until fourteen years of age, and attended the public schools of the neighborhood, completing his education, however, by one term at Lititz Academy. Coming to Manheim at the age of fifteen, he entered the store of **John Schaeffer** as clerk, and remained in his employ two years, at the end of which time he went to Lancaster and worked eighteen months for **David Bear**, a merchant of that place. Having a desire to see something of the country, he then went west to Illinois, and located in Freeport, where he spent eight years, clerking in a dry goods store two years. For one year he was engaged in the grain business with **Joseph S. Brubaker** and **John Slott**, as a member of the firm of **Slott, Hostetter & Brubaker**; for two years he conducted a grocery establishment, and then engaged in the real estate business for the remainder of his stay in Freeport. In 1860. **Mr. Hostetter** returned to Manheim, Pa., but for one year operated his father's mill in Perry County, this State. Since then he has made his home permanently in Manheim and has been prominently identified with its business interests. He established the first coal yard here, but after conducting it one year he sold out to a **Mr. Kline**; the yard is now owned by **E. H. Hershey**. He was next engaged for two years in mercantile business at Lancaster, under the firm name of **Hostetter & Bruner**, selling out at the end of that time in order that he might settle up the estates left by his father and father-in-law. After two years devoted to that, he embarked in the manufacture of brick at

Manheim, opening in 1865 the second yard established here and he has since engaged in that business. From 1867 until 1899 he also conducted a store in Manheim, carrying a line of clothing, hats, caps and gents' furnishing goods, but in May of the latter year he disposed of his stock. Since 1885 he has been interested in the livery business in Manheim, and for the past quarter of a century has engaged in the cultivation of tobacco. He is a good type of the energetic, wide-awake and progressive man.

In 1858 **Mr. Hostetter** was united in marriage with **Miss Elizabeth A. Ensminger**, a daughter of **Samuel Ensminger**, who at that time was treasurer of Lancaster County. Three children were born of this union, but two died in infancy. **Vennetta**, the only one now living, is the wife of **H. C. Stauffer**, teller in the Manheim National Bank.

Religiously **Mr. Hostetter** is a member of the Reformed Church; socially he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while politically he is a staunch Republican. He keeps abreast of the times and is thoroughly up-to-date in all respects. As a citizen he ever stands ready to discharge any duty that devolves upon him, and gives his support to every enterprise for the public good.

www.theperryhistorians.org