

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

Isaiah Hunter, cabinet-maker and undertaker, Millerstown, Perry County, Pa., son of **Robert** and **Mary (Murray) Hunter**, was born in Hunters Valley, Perry County, September 8, 1825. His grandfather, **James Hunter**, was born in Ireland, of Scotch-Irish parentage. He emigrated to America when a young man, and settled in a valley in Perry County, which is called Hunters Valley to this day. His business prospered well and he became the owner of several farms. There was a peculiar halt or catch in his speech, which caused him to utter and repeat the letter "C C C" several times before each sentence he spoke, and from this peculiarity he was called "**C. Jimmie**" to distinguish him from the many other **James Hunters**, one being designated "**Oxen Jimmie**", another "**Long Jimmie**", and another "**Short Jimmie**", etc. They were all Presbyterians in those days.

He was twice married, and the maiden name of the grandmother of **Isaiah Hunter** was **Buchanan**. His children are: **James; John; Robert; Joseph; Samuel; William; Sally (Mrs. John Elmaker)**; and **Mrs. Thompson**. His son, **Robert Hunter**, was born in Buffalo Township, Perry County, Pa., in 1799. He was reared a farmer and made farming his principal occupation through life. He was a Democrat. In the former part of his life he was a Presbyterian, but before his death became a Lutheran. He married **Mary Murray**, who died some thirty years before him. When he was advanced in years, the home farm in Buffalo Township was sold, and he made his home among his children. His death occurred in 1888, at the home of his daughter, **Jane Shuler**. The children of **Robert** and **Mary Hunter** are: **Isaiah; Martha**, widow of **J. B. Carr**, of New Florence, Westmoreland County, Pa.; **Jane**, married first **George Wells**, and second, **Joseph Shuler**, who died at Liverpool, Pa., and his widow now resides at Newport, Pa.; **Maria (Mrs. Abraham Horting)**, of Howe Township, Perry County, Pa.; **James**, a boatman, was drowned at Philadelphia; **Sally Ann (Mrs. Samuel Reeves)**, of Newport, Pa.; **Robert**, when last heard from was in the coal regions; **Johanna (Mrs. David Shellenberger)**, of Chicago, Ill.; **Amos**, died at Duncannon, Pa.; **Lavina**, married first **William Agley**, and secondly, **Isaac Grubb**, both of whom died in Perry County; and **Rachel**, died unmarried.

Isaac Hunter was a very industrious and useful boy and found time to attend the public schools three months each year. The memory of many happy hours passed on the farm still lingers with him, but none are more fondly recalled than those spent in riding the horses while they tramped out the wheat on the barn floor, which was the process of threshing grain in those days. At eighteen years of age he became an apprentice to the trade of cabinet-making with his maternal uncle, **Jacob E. Murray**, at Liverpool, with whom he served three years, and then worked two years longer as a journeyman, after which he followed this occupation at several places. After his marriage he resided in Liverpool until the spring of 1867, then at Newport for two years, and then took up his residence at Millerstown, where he has been since that time.

Mr. Hunter enlisted March 7, 1865, in the United States Army, and was assigned to Company K, Eighty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers, joining his regiment at Hatchers Run. He was in line at several battles, and was kept on heavy marches during the battle of Five Forks, after which he

was engaged in guarding wagon trains until the close of the war. He participated in the grand review of the army at Washington. D. C. was mustered out at Arlington Heights, and paid off at Harrisburg, Pa. After returning home, he was employed for several seasons at his trade, and was also engaged in constructing canal boats and in building houses and barns. For the past twenty-eight years **Mr. Hunter** has combined the occupations of cabinet-making and undertaking. His party membership is with the Democrats, and he strongly advocates the free coinage of silver. He has served as councilman and burgess one term, and also as school director. He is a member of Post 297, G. A. R. at Newport.

Isaiah Hunter was married September 29, 1853, to **Catharine Foley**, born November 30, 1826, in Liverpool, Perry County, Pa., daughter of **Martin** and **Elizabeth (Keeny) Foley**. Their children are: **James M.**, died at Liverpool, Pa., aged two and a half years; **Robert B.**, employed in the Pennsylvania Railroad shops at Altoona, Pa.; **John W.**, employed as gateman at the railroad depot, Altoona Pa.; **George M.**, was employed in the Pennsylvania Railroad shops at Altoona, where he died August 28, 1896; **Harvey H.**, employed in the Western Union Telegraph office at Pittsburg, Pa. **Isaiah Hunter** is now a member of the Methodist Church; he was formerly connected with the Reformed, and afterwards with the Lutheran Church.

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