

Biographical Annals of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania; Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens and of Many of The Early Settled Families. Illustrated. Chicago: The Genealogical Publishing Co., 1905.

**John Jacobs**, late a retired farmer and blacksmith, who found rest and comfort in a pleasant home after a long life of hard work, was one of the substantial men of Cumberland County, upon whose reputation there is found no stain. His ancestors originally settled in York County, but his grandfather moved from there to what is now Perry County, and died near Shermansdale.

**John Jacobs, Sr.**, was born in York County, and in childhood accompanied his parents to Perry County. Like the children of the pioneers in general his education was limited so far as books were concerned, but when it came to work there was no limit placed. He learned the trade of blacksmith along the old Trindle Road in Cumberland County. For seven years he lived in a rented house on the farm now owned and occupied by **Jacob Ziegler**, and there he carried on his trade. Accumulating some little money by hard toil and much economy, he was able to purchase seven acres at the cross roads in Middlesex Township, now known as **Jacobs Corners**. That was his home until his death, which occurred some years before the Civil war, when he was aged about seventy-five years. His wife, **Catherine Kell**, of Perry County, survived him several years. They were members of the Lutheran Church at Carlisle Springs. **Mr. Jacobs** was a Democrat. Of their children several died when young, but of the four who grew to maturity, **Sarah**, who married **Jacob Humer**, died in Middlesex Township, at the age of seventy-six; **William** married **Annie Hoover**, and died in Silver Spring Township; **John Jacobs** (2); and **Samuel** married **Elizabeth Berstline**, and lives in Middlesex Township.

**John Jacobs**, the second of the name, and the subject proper of this sketch, was born on what is now the **Jacob Ziegler** farm in Middlesex Township Nov. 13, 1822. He was just seven years old when his father bought the old home at the Cross roads. His recollections of his school days went back to the primitive educational facilities of a new country, when all the schools were subscription schools, and the teacher for the most part firm believers in the theory of Solomon about the use of the rod. When but a boy **Mr. Jacobs** began work in his father's blacksmith shop, and when his father determined to retire he was so thoroughly instructed as to be able to carry on the shop himself. After his marriage in 1853 he bought thirty-eight acres of land, and built his late home. Naturally industrious he prospered, and with economy and the help of his good wife, he was able to purchase in a comparatively short time another fifty acres, where he built another house in which he lived for some two years, then returning to his late home. He continued to carry on his trade of blacksmith until 1898, when he felt it was time for him to rest, having passed by several years then the Psalmist's allotted three score years and ten, and he lived in retirement up to the time of his death.

On May 17, 1853, **Mr. Jacobs** was married to **Sarah Catherine Garman**, who was born at Hanover, Pa., Sept. 30, 1833, daughter of **John** and **Elizabeth (Baringer) Garman**. At the time of his marriage **John Garman** was a post fence builder, but he then located one mile from Harrisburg, later buying the **George Nevinger** farm in Silver Spring Township, where he carried on farming until his death about 1862, when he was aged eighty-one years. **Elizabeth (Baringer) Garman** was the daughter of **Jacob Baringer**. To **John** and **Elizabeth Garman** were born the following family: **John**, who died in Frankford Township, married **Mrs. Sarah**

**Finkenbinder; Elizabeth** is the wife of **Mathew Shefler**, and lives in Kansas; **Polly** married **Samuel Shoop**, and died in Harrisburg; **Hettie** married first **Daniel Henshaw**, second **David Shenk**, and died at the home of her daughter, **Mrs. John Sponser**, of Silver Spring Township; **Samuel** married **Elizabeth Vogelsang**, and died in Greencastle, Pa.; **Jane Ann** married **John Ward**, and died near Plainfield, Pa.; **Benjamin** married **Susan Albright**, and died on the home farm; **Sarah Catherine** became **Mrs. Jacobs**; and **Michael** married first **Mrs. Susan (Albright) Garman** (widow of his brother **Benjamin**), and second **Caroline Daron**. To **John Jacobs** and his wife four children were born: **Sadie Catherine**, now **Mrs. David Orris**, of near Kingston; **John W. P.**, who married **Rebecca Leshner**, and is deceased; **George B. Mc**, who married **Clara Keller**, and lives in Shiremanstown, this county; and **Francis Abner**, who married **Sarah Ann Devinney**, and lives near Good Hope. The family have all been reared in the Lutheran faith, and they are living lives that reflect credit on their home teachings. **Mr. Jacobs** was always an unwavering Democrat in his political views, and was highly respected in the community that knew him so well. He passed the evening of his life surrounded by the comfort wrought by his own hands.

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