

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

## KEARNS

**John W. Kearns**, of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, had for his emigrant progenitor **John Kearns**, of Germany, who came to this country while yet it was in its swaddling clothes. It is thought that he first located in New York State, afterward joining some of his countrymen in Pennsylvania, where he became a farmer and owned a large tract of land. Among his children was **John W.**, of whom further.

(II) **John W.**, son of **John Kearns**, of Germany, was an early and prominent resident of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He moved from there to Mifflin County while it was yet in its infancy, purchased a large tract of land in Decatur Township, cleared a portion of it, cultivated it and there lived with his family until his death. He was one of the progressive men of the day and was largely instrumental in introducing modern (for that time) methods of local government. He married **Elizabeth Stroup**, like himself of sturdy German origin, and she proved herself a worthy helpmeet in every way. They were both members of the Presbyterian Church, rearing their children in that creed with great strictness. Children, all of whom are dead: **Margaret**, married **Mr. Hoover**; **Thomas**; **Sophia**, married **Mr. Preston**; **Sarah**, married **Mr. Townsend**; **Phillip S.**; **John W.**; **Joseph**; **Elias Calvin**, of whom further.

(III) **Elias Calvin**, son of **John W.** and **Elizabeth (Stroup) Kearns**, was born February 17, 1839, in Decatur Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, died August 13, 1888, in Derry Township, the same county. He was educated in the common schools of the time, and on leaving he began farming. He married and located in Derry Township, Mifflin County, buying one hundred and eighty acres, and here lived until his death, a prosperous, highly esteemed citizen of the county. Like his forbears he was a member of the Presbyterian Church, as was his wife, and in that faith reared his children. He was a staunch Democrat, advocating and supporting actively the principles of the party; and was elected through it to many of the local offices, in which he served faithfully and for the good of the township. He was poor director for some time, doing all in his power to alleviate the distress of the county charges. He was greatly mourned at his death.

He married **Nancy J. Sieber**, born July 25, 1844, in Juniata County, died in Derry Township, April 4, 1905, a daughter of a German family long established in Juniata County. Children: 1. **Samuel C.**, born March 26, 1866, died October 22, 1878, in an accident. 2. **John W.**, of whom further. 3. **George E.**, a postal clerk; lives on Logan Street, Lewistown. 4. **Nancy Elizabeth**, unmarried; lives with her brother **Charles**. 5. **Anna Gertrude**, married **R. L. Howe**, and lives in Philadelphia. 6. **Charles**, unmarried; a farmer near Lewistown, and is also employed by the Standard Steel Works.

(IV) **John William Kearns**, of Lewistown, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, son of **Elias Calvin** and **Nancy J. (Sieber) Kearns**, was born November 14, 1867, in Derry Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, east of Lewistown. He was educated in the common schools of the township and at the Lewistown Academy. On leaving school he engaged in farming, with great

success. In 1895 he bought, in Derry Township, ninety-three acres, and there lived until 1910, when he purchased, in the same township, one hundred and forty-one acres, moved to it, still retaining the first farm and cultivating both. He does general farming while making a specialty of potatoes, which he harvests for the market. Ten acres are devoted to this particular branch of agriculture, and from it he realizes handsomely. Naturally he is a member of the Presbyterian Church, as is his wife. He is a Democrat in politics and has served as school director, **Mr. Kearns** not only farms successfully, but is interested in real estate to some extent and owns two houses and lots in Lewistown, on Walnut Street, which he rents, the value of which have increased with each year. He married, November 6, 1896, **Mary Beaver**, born in Perry County, Pennsylvania, a daughter of **George E.** and **Elizabeth Beaver**, of Perry County, where they rank as prominent members of the county. Children: **George Edwin, Paul William, Edith Margaret, Elias Calvin, Hugh Beaver.**

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