

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

William Henry Kell, district attorney, New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa., was born November 21, 1869, near Alinda, Spring Township, Perry County. The ancestor of the family in the county was **Philip Kell**, who came from York County at an early day and settled in Spring Township, here four generations have since resided. **Abraham Kell**, a son of **Philip**, and the grandfather of **William H. Kell**, was a mason and farmer, and passed his life in Spring Township, where he died. His wife, **Elizabeth**, survived until 1884. **John W. Kell, Sr.**, father of **W. H. Kell**, was born on the old homestead in Spring Township, December 1, 1842. There he grew to manhood, and followed farming and blacksmithing until after the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion, when he entered the service of the Government as a teamster, and was afterwards promoted to wagon master. His service was with the Army of the Potomac. In 1864, he enlisted as a private in Company E, Two Hundred and Eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served until after the close of the war, participating with his regiment in the battle of Fort Steadman, and the engagements before Petersburg. After being honorably discharged from the service, he returned home, cultivated his farm and practiced as a veterinary surgeon for several years. In 1876, he embarked in mercantile business in Ellittsburg, and continued until 1880. The accidental loss of a hand, however, in 1875, so interfered with his efforts in performing the heavier work on the farm that he retired after a few years, and has since devoted himself to the care of his property. In 1890, he was elected county treasurer on the Republican ticket and filled that office with fidelity and efficiency for three years. **Mr. Kell** is highly esteemed throughout the county for his unquestioned integrity. **Mr. Kell** is a Republican, and has given a faithful adherence to the doctrines and principles of that party since arriving at manhood. His personal efforts have ever been in behalf of the party's success, and he stands high in the party councils of the county. **Mr. Kell** is a member of the G. A. R.

John W. Kell, Sr., was married in December, 1867, to **Susanna**, daughter of **Benjamin** and **Susanna Rice**, of Spring Township. Their children are: **William H.**, of New Bloomfield; **Catherine (Mrs. Frank E. Crist)**, of Harrisburg, Pa.; **Susan Elizabeth (Mrs. Harry W. Robinson)**, of Shermansdale, Perry County, Pa.; and **John W., Jr.**, a teacher in the public schools of Spring Township. Both **Mr.** and **Mrs. Kell** are members of the United Evangelical Church.

William H. Kell was reared to manhood in Spring Township. His early education was acquired in the public schools, and was supplemented by a special course, with a view to entering the legal profession, taken in the New Bloomfield Academy. This course was pursued during the spring terms, from 1886 to 1892, **Mr. Kell** teaching during the winter. His last term before devoting himself entirely to the study of law, was as principal of the New Bloomfield schools. In the spring of 1891 he became a law student in the office of **James W. Shull**, and after the prescribed course, was admitted to the Bar of Perry County in June, 1894. After his admission he began practice for himself. In November, 1896, **Mr. Kell** was elected district attorney of Perry County, on the Republican ticket, by the largest majority ever accorded a candidate for that office. He assumed the duties of the office January 1, 1897, and has since discharged them in an able and efficient manner. On April 12, 1894, **Mr. Kell** was married to **Mary E. Tressler**, a

daughter of **David** and **Catherine A. (Ensminger) Tressler**. To this union there have been born two children: **one** that died in infancy; and **Myrtle Marie**, born February 15, 1897. **Mr. Kell** is a Republican, and is an active and influential member of his party in the county. Though yet a young man, he has shown himself to be possessed of decided ability. He has a good legal mind, and those who know him best predict for him a brilliant career at the bar. He is a man of studious habits, careful and methodical in business matters. He has won distinction as a public speaker. Besides doing effective work in his own and other counties in Pennsylvania he was called in 1896 into the State of Ohio on a lecture tour in the interest of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. His integrity is beyond question, and he fully merits the high respect and esteem accorded him. In addition to his present position, he has served three terms as clerk of the borough council of New Bloomfield, and has also filled the office of school director. He is a member of New Bloomfield Council, No. 626, Jr. O. U. A. M., in which he has filled the position of deputy State councilor, and has served as representative to the State convention, and representative to the National Funeral Benefit Association. He is also a member of Mackinaw Lodge, No. 380, I. O. O. F., of New Bloomfield. **Mr. Kell** is a member of the Lutheran Church.

www.theperryhistorians.org