

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

**John P. Kelly**, Doyles Mills, Juniata County, Pa., was born in Milford Township, Juniata County, November 28, 1821. He is a son of **Moses** and **Elizabeth (Patterson) Kelly**. **John Kelly**, his grandfather, was a native of Ireland, who emigrated to America, and settled in Milford Township. Here he bought and cultivated a tract of land. During the Revolutionary war he served in the army. He married **Miss Lyons**, by whom he had five children; one of these was **Moses Kelly**, father of **John P.** **John Kelly** died in Milford Township after a long and useful life. **Moses Kelly** passed his entire life in Milford, his native township, engaged in cultivating his farm of 360 acres. He was besides a dealer in stock. He married **Elizabeth**, daughter of **John Patterson**, of Spruce Hill Township, Juniata County. Their children are: **John P.**; **Rebecca (Mrs. J. H. McAlister)**, of McAlisterville, Pa.; **Elizabeth**, widow of **John Moore**; **Alexander**, residing in Iowa; **James**, residing in California; **Melinda (Mrs. Caldwell)**, of Kansas; **Nancy**, who died young; **David**, who died in infancy; **Patterson**, deceased; and **William**, deceased. **Mr. Kelly** was a Republican. He was a member, and a deacon, of the Presbyterian Church. Both he and his wife died on the homestead farm, the latter in May, 1871.

**John P. Kelly** received his education in the subscription and public schools of Milford and Spruce Hill Townships, supplemented by a course in the Tuscarora Academy, where he studied under the Rev. Mr. McWilliam. After leaving school he worked on the home farm until he was of age, when he purchased a portion of it, and continued farming it for several years. Then he removed to Academia, Pa., where he entered into partnership with **Robert Patterson**, a general merchant of that place. Six months after this partnership was formed **Mr. Patterson** died; **Mr. Kelly** carried on the business for several years, and subsequently went to Doyles Mills, his present place of residence, where he again engaged in mercantile business, being the first merchant of that town. In 1871 he was appointed postmaster, which position he has ever since retained. In early life **Mr. Kelly** was a Whig, and is now a Republican. He was for five years overseer of the poor. He is a director of the Building and Loan Association of the valley. **Mr. Kelly** owns the old Patterson homestead in Spruce Hill Township, and the lot on which his house and store stand at Doyles Mills.

In 1846 **John P. Kelly** was married, in Milford Township, to **Lucinda**, daughter of **Squire John McAlister**, of Fayette Township, Juniata County; she was born at McAlisterville. By this marriage he had four children, one of whom, **James Austin**, is dead. Those living are: **Edward**, a merchant of Millerstown, Perry County, Pa.; **Jennie (Mrs. Samuel Graham)**, of Spruce Hill Township; and **Melinda (Mrs. George Moyer)**, of Milford Township. **Mrs. Lucinda Kelly** died in 1885. **Mr. Kelly** was married the second time to **Mrs. Kerr**, widow of **J. N. Kerr**, of Madison Township, Perry County. She is a daughter of **Samuel Shumaker**, and a sister of **J. H. Shumaker**, Ph. D., one of the best among the excellent principals who have had charge of Tuscarora Academy. **Mr. Shumaker** died at Chambersburg, Pa., where his youngest son now holds a clerkship in the First National Bank. **Mrs. Kelly** had no children by either marriage. **Mr. Kelly** is an elder of the Presbyterian Church at Academia, Pa., and a faithful and zealous member. He was an earnest worker in the Sunday-school, in which he has served both as teacher and as superintendent.