



*George T. Kepner*

**George T. Kepner**, Port Royal, Juniata County, Pa., was born in Turbett Township, Juniata County, June 10, 1862. He is a son of **Philip M.** and **Harriet (Rickenbaugh) Kepner**. His grandfather, **Benjamin Kepner**, was a native of Pfoutz Valley, Perry County. He was a soldier in the Continental army and served under General Washington. After farming for some time in Liverpool Township, Perry County, he removed to Juniata County, and bought land about three miles in extent in Turbett Township. The **Kepner** family may be called the fathers of Port Royal, since the town was built on a part of this land. When **Mr. Kepner** purchased this land, a large part of it was covered with valuable timber. He began to clear the land and build a fine log house, the first one of the kind erected in the township. This house is still standing, and is more than one hundred years old. In 1805, he built a stone barn, the first in the township, which is still in existence. **Mr. Kepner** also erected the first brick dwelling house and barn in the township. This is on the

homestead, and is owned by his son, **Henry**. **Mr. Kepner** was an old school Democrat, well-known and respected in the county. He was married twice; his son, **Philip**, was the child of the second wife, who died at the homestead in Turbett Township, aged seventy-six. **Mr. Benjamin Kepner** died at the homestead in Turbett Township, where he resided with his son, **Henry**, at the age of ninety-six. His son, **Philip Kepner**, received a fair education, and decided to turn his attention to the cultivation of the soil. Inheriting his father's enterprising spirit, his first improvement, when at the age of thirty-five he obtained the homestead, a farm of 255 acres, was the planting of a large apple and peach orchard; under his intelligent management, it became one of the most productive orchards in the township. He also bought and shipped live stock; and at one time owned a steer which he sold for \$300. At the age of fifty, he retired from farming, and removing to Port Royal, Pa., turned his attention to mercantile affairs, dealing in coal, grain and lumber. He bought a convenient brick dwelling, costing about \$4,000, one of the most comfortable houses in Port Royal. **Mr. Philip Kepner** was interested in all the affairs of the township. He adhered to the Democratic Party, and served as tax collector, and as a member of the council of Port Royal. **Mr. Kepner** was highly esteemed in the community. His financial success and his benevolent disposition made him prominent in the County. He was one of the founders of the Juniata Valley Bank and a stockholder in the Mifflintown Bank, the Juniata Valley Bank at Port Royal, the National Bank of Newport, Perry County, and in the bank at Middleburg, Snyder County, Pa. **Mr. Philip Kepner** was married near Mexico, Walker Township, Juniata County, to **Henrietta**, daughter of **David Rickenbaugh**, of Mexico. They have six children: **Alice (Mrs. William Copenhaver)**, of Chicago, Ill.; **Franklin Pierce**, of Pittsburg; **Anna (Mrs. John Diffenderfer)**, of Pittsburg, Pa.; **George T.**; **Jeanette**, living at Harrisburg, Pa.; and **Bessie**, residing at Harrisburg. **Mr. Philip Kepner** and his wife are

members of the Presbyterian Church. **Mr. Kepner** died February 1, 1892, aged seventy-two; his widow resides in Harrisburg, Pa.

**George T. Kepner** received his primary education in the public schools of Turbett Township and of Port Royal. He completed his course in the Airy View Academy at and is actively interested in local politics. In February, 1897, he was elected tax collector for Port Royal; he is also a member of the town council. **Mr. George Kepner** is an enterprising business man, and is interested in the progress of the community. For more than three years he has been a large stockholder in and a director of the Juniata Valley Bank, at Port Royal, and of the National Bank at Newport, Pa. He is also a stockholder in the bank at Mifflintown and at Middleburg, Snyder County, Pa.

**George T. Kepner** was married, at McAlisterville, Juniata County, December 10, 1885, to **Ella**, daughter of **Henry Sieber**, of Mifflintown. They have five children: **Blanche M.**, deceased; **Ralph S.**; **Paul McC**; **G. Raymond**; and **Frank B.** **Mr. George T. Kepner** is a member of the Presbyterian Church, Port Royal, under Professors Wilson and Patterson. After leaving school he worked with his father in his business house in Port Royal. When he was twenty-eight, he was made a partner in the firm of Kepner & Son. In 1890, his father retired, and since that time he has had entire control of the business. He also cultivates the homestead, which has been in the possession of the family for more than a hundred years. He has made many improvements in the property. He was among the first farmers to introduce the culture of tobacco into Turbett Township. He has a large tobacco shed costing about \$800, and has now more than 200 acres under cultivation. He has also repaired his home in Port Royal, heating it by steam and adding all the modern improvements. **Mr. George Kepner** is a member of the Democratic Party.

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