

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

**Irvin S. Kepner**, hardware merchant, Port Royal, Juniata County, Pa., was born February 18, 1856, in Turbett Township, Juniata County. He is a son of **Samuel D.** and **Barbara (Motze) Kepner**. His grandfather, **Jacob Kepner**, was a Pennsylvanian by birth, as his father had been, with whom he came when quite young to the Juniata Valley, the family settling in Perry County, near Millerstown. In this county **Jacob Kepner** carried on farming and boating on the Juniata River. He was still a young man when he came to Juniata County, and purchased a farm of 100 acres in Turbett Township. He subsequently made large additional purchases and became a very extensive land owner, his farms being improved by the erection of commodious buildings and in other ways. He married **Miss Gross**, born in Snyder County. They had four children: **David; John; Jacob;** and **Catharine**. His wife having died in Turbett Township, **Mr. Kepner** married **Sarah Dups**, a native of Perry County; two of their nine children, **Susannah** and **Solomon**, died young. The others were: **Elizabeth (Mrs. Samuel Aughey)**, of Milford Township; **Christina**, married first to **Jacob Hertzler**, afterwards to **George Heikes; Henry**, deceased; **Sarah (Mrs. Samuel Rice)**, of Turbett Township, deceased; **Mary (Mrs. George Boyer)**, of the same Township; **Benjamin**, of Milford Township; and **Samuel D.** **Jacob Kepner** was a sound Democrat. He was a member of the Lutheran Church, and was deacon and elder. His death occurred in Turbett Township, in 1845. His widow survived until 1870.

**Samuel D. Kepner**, born in Turbett Township, Juniata County, August 5, 1824, attended a subscription school at the Church Hill school house. He afterwards attended the public schools of Turbett Township. He grew up on his father's farm, and remained there for fifty-seven years, greatly improving the homestead. He was an extensive stock raiser, and possessed great enterprise and business capacity. **Samuel D. Kepner** was married in Freeburg, Snyder County, in 1847, to **Barbara Motze**, born near Freeburg, Snyder County. They had six children: **John J.**, of Nebraska; **Irvin S.**, of Port Royal, Pa.; **Mary A. (Mrs. Joseph Varness)**, of East Salem, Juniata County; **William F.**, of Nebraska; **Sarah B.** and **Matilda**, both of whom died in early life. **Samuel D. Kepner's** wife having died in Turbett Township, in 1861, he married **Caroline \_\_\_\_\_**, a widow. Their only child is **George W. Kepner**. **Mrs. Caroline Kepner** died in April, 1892. **Mr. Kepner** is a Democrat; he filled with credit the office of school director in the township. He is a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church; he was formerly a Lutheran, and filled the offices of deacon and elder in the Lutheran Church, the former for

twenty-four consecutive years. He has been known and respected all his life as an upright and honorable man.

**Irvin S. Kepner** attended the public schools at the Church Hill school house, of Turbett Township, and worked on the farm until he was sixteen years of age. He then learned carpentry, which occupied two years. He was then for one year clerk for **A. J. Hertzler**, at Huntingdon, after which he went to Philadelphia, where he was clerk in the commission business for the same employer. Owning eighty acres of land in Nebraska, he farmed there for thirteen years. When he sold out and traveled for one year in the interest of the Buckeye Machine Company. He then returned to his father at Port Royal, and he worked at carpentry for more than two years; then again went west, and spent some time in Colorado and Missouri. In 1895, he returned to Juniata County, and in the following spring engaged in the hardware business, in which he has met with encouraging success.

**Irvin S. Kepner** was married in Milford Township, in 1881, to **Mary H. Sherlock**, born in Tuscarora Valley, Juniata County, a daughter of **David Sherlock**, of that county. **Mr. Kepner** is a man of energy and excellent business capacities, universally respected and highly esteemed. He is a member of Rising Star Lodge, No. 75, I. O. O. F., of Osceola, Neb., and of the P. O. S. A., of Port Royal. He is a member of the Silver Democratic Club of Port Royal, and is a strong silver Democrat. He and **Mrs. Kepner** are consistent members of the Presbyterian Church.

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