

Biographical Annals Lancaster County Pennsylvania. A Biographical and Genealogical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens and Many of the Early Settlers, Illustrated, Publishers: J. H. Beers & Co, 1903

Joseph F. Kerner was born in Columbia July 2, 1858, son of **John Andrew** and **Anna Barbara (Keidesch) Kerner**, both of whom were for many years residents of Columbia. The father was born in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1813, son of **George Kerner**, a miller, and emigrated to America with his wife and family in the spring of 1847, settling at Columbia, where he remained until his death, Aug. 30, 1887, at the age of seventy-four years; his wife survived until June, 1895. They were devout and prominent members of the Lutheran Church. **John A. Kerner** had learned from his father the trade of miller. He followed baking for a time in Columbia, Lancaster County, later entering the employ of the Pennsylvania Railway Company, with which he remained until his death. The children of **John A.** and **Anna Barbara Kerner** were **John B.**, of Columbia, a conductor on the Pennsylvania Road; **Fredericka**, wife of **Daniel Marks**, a hotel-keeper at Danville, Pa.; **Andrew**, who died in infancy; **Catherine**, wife of **Jacob Sample**, a telegraph operator of Columbia; and **Joseph B.**

Joseph B. Kerner was reared in Columbia, receiving a fair common-school education. At the age of twelve years he began an apprenticeship to a confectioner, and followed that trade for ten years. This term of employment was broken by a three-months experience in the United States army, **Mr. Kerner's** taste leading him to a more active life. After his discharge, at the expiration of three months, he resumed candy making at Columbia for a time, and then began his service on the Pennsylvania railroad. For seventeen years he was employed as brakeman and flagman, in May, 1893, became an extra conductor, and on Sept. 4, 1899, was appointed regular conductor, still retaining that position. He met with an accident Nov. 29, 1899, through which he lost his right arm.

Mr. Kerner married at Columbia, in 1880, **Miss Lizzie Brown**, who was born in Rapho Township Nov. 1, 1862, daughter of **Harry** and **Sarah Ann (Hougendoubler) Brown**, and granddaughter of **Joseph Brown**, of York County, and of **Michael** and **Anna (Grann) Hougendoubler**, of Lancaster County; her maternal grandfather was a tinner by trade. **Harry Brown**, her father, was a carpenter, and in 1867 removed from Newtown, Rapho Township, to Columbia, moving his trade until 1876, when he became a brakeman on the Pennsylvania road. He was killed on the road at Philadelphia, March 8, 1881, aged forty-four years; his widow still survives. To **Harry** and **Sarah A. Brown** were born the following named children: **Anna**, wife of **Harry Baker**, a railroad engineer at Harrisburg, Pa.; **Simon**, a freight conductor, who died Oct. 1, 1899; **Lizzie**; **Isaiah**, who died aged eight years; **William S.**, who died in infancy; **Harry**, who died aged sixteen months; **Effie**, wife of **Charles Miller**, a railroad brakeman at Harrisburg; and **Edward**, deceased. To **Joseph B.** and **Lizzie (Brown) Kerner** was born one child, **Catherine A.** The wife and mother died June 26, 1890, and the daughter died Nov. 1, 1901, aged nineteen years.

Mr. Kerner was again married, Dec. 25, 1902, to **Miss Sara Harper Adams**, who was born at New Germantown, (Toboyne Township), Perry Co., Pa., Nov. 1, 1874, daughter of **Robert C.** and **Sara (Yhost) Adams**. Her father, **Robert C. Adams**, was born at New Germantown May 4, 1847, and by occupation is a farmer. Her mother was born at Duncannon, Perry Co., Pa., April

29, 1853. To **Mr. and Mrs. Adams** were born the following children: **Wilson H.** of New Germantown, who married **Annie Seager**, of the same place; **Sara H.**; **Franklin**, who died in infancy; **Luemma**; **Theodore**; **Alton**, who died in infancy; **Lawrence**; **Grace**; **Wilmot**; **Cloyd**; **Harry**; and **Earl**.

Mr. Kerner is a member of the B. of R. R. T., of the I. O. O. F., the B. of U., and the Firemen's Relief Association. In politics he is a Republican. He has proved a most valuable railroad employee and official, and in both railway and town circles is highly esteemed for his many good qualities.

www.theperryhistorians.org