

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

**Jonathan Kiser**, Delaware Township, Juniata County, Pa., was born June 8, 1836, in Delaware Township, at Evans Mills. He is a son of **Jonathan** and **Catharine S. (Aurand) Kiser**. **Peter Kiser**, grandfather of **Jonathan Kiser** (formerly **Keiser**), was born in Germany. He emigrated to this country and settled in Union County, Pa., where he engaged in milling. He married, and was the father of four children, one of whom was **Jonathan**. In his political views he was a Whig. He died in Turbett Township, Juniata County. **Jonathan Kiser** was born in Union County. He received a German and English education, and was, by occupation, a miller. He was also engaged in farming for the six years preceding his death. He was employed in Walker, Turbett and Delaware Townships, having been for five years the miller at Evans Mills in Delaware Township. He married **Catharine S. Aurand**, born in Snyder County. Their children were: **Eli**, of Altoona; **Hannah (Mrs. Thomas Quay)**; **Edward**, of Delaware Township; **Lydia (Mrs. Samuel Hack)**, of Mexico, Juniata County; **John**, deceased; **Mary A. (Mrs. James Rickenbaugh)**, of Altoona; **Jonathan**, of Delaware Township; **Catharine (Mrs. Robert Woodward)**, deceased; and **two** who died in infancy. **Mr. Kiser** was a man highly respected by all who knew him. In politics, he was a life-long Whig. He was a consistent member of the Lutheran Church. His wife died in Delaware Township, March 23, 1873, aged seventy years, seven months and ten days. His own death occurred in Turbett Township.

**Jonathan Kiser** attended the public schools of Walker Township during the winter months until he was fifteen years of age, when he started out to make his own living. He was employed for one year on the railroad, driving a cart for the meager compensation of seven dollars per month, and then for two years on the Pennsylvania canal, after which he was a driver on the tow-path of the canal, which was followed by five years of farm labor in Walker Township. **Mr. Kiser** then began to farm for himself, renting the Hamilton farm in Walker Township, on which he remained six years. He then farmed for one year at Van Wert, when, crossing the river, he spent two years in the Tuscarora Valley, after which he returned to Walker Township, where he remained for one year, which was followed by eight years on the **Lukens** farm of Delaware Township. In 1874, he purchased the farm on which he now resides, which he has greatly improved, in many ways, especially by the erection of substantial and commodious buildings. **Mr. Kiser** was first married December 28, 1859, in Walker Township, to **Miss Catharine Patterson**, a native of Juniata County, and a daughter of **William Patterson**. Their children were: **George**, a fireman on the Pennsylvania Railroad; **Mary (Mrs. Samuel Spicher)**, deceased; and **Catharine**. His wife was born June 4, 1811, and died January 25, 1865. He was married secondly on February 23, 1866, to **Miss Jane Smith**, daughter of **David Smith, Sr.**, born in Fayette Township, Juniata County. Their children were: **Luther H.** school teacher; **Hulda (Mrs. J. Holmes Book)**, of Walker Township; **Bertha (Mrs. Simon P. Cameron)**, of Thompsettown; **David S.**, who resides on the homestead; **Rosa**; and **Vertie C.** **Mr. Kiser's** second wife died April 12, 1887. He was married, thirdly, September 23, 1889, to **Mary E. Kearns**, widow of **Thomas G. Kearns**, and daughter of **Thomas** and **Susan (Bastress) Patton**. They have one child, **Bertha**, a student of the State Normal School at Millersville, Lancaster County, Pa.

**Mr. Kiser** has a most honorable war record. In 1862, he enlisted at Harrisburg in Company K, One Hundred and Fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers, Capt. James Miller, and Col. Calvin A. Craig. With the regiment, he passed through the battles of the Wilderness, Poe River, Spottsylvania, Bottom Ridge, North Anna, and Cold Harbor. In the last mentioned engagement he was wounded by a ball passing through his left forearm, and was compelled in consequence to spend four months in the hospital. Honorably discharged in 1865, he returned home with an established record as a good and brave soldier. **Mr. Kiser** has ably served his district for eighteen years as a school director, during five of which he was president of the board, and its treasurer for the remainder of the time. He has also been the township assessor for two terms, and the tax collector for two years. He is president of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Juniata County, a position to which he was elected in 1895. In his political views, he is a Republican. He is a consistent and devout member of the Lutheran Church, in which he has been an elder for the past twenty-five years. He has for many years been prominently identified with the Sunday school work as a teacher and superintendent.

**David S. Kiser**, son of **Jonathan Kiser**, was born September 12, 1869, in Delaware Township, Juniata County. He attended the public schools of the township, and has since followed farming on the homestead. He is a prominent and active member of Lodge No. 357, I. O. O. F., of Thompsontown, having been selected as their representative to the meeting of the Grand Lodge in Williamsport, Pa. He was honored by being selected as a member of the State Board of Inspection of the exhibition at Chicago.

**Thomas Patton**, father of **Mrs. Kiser**, was born in Lancaster County, Pa. He was a wagon-maker in Thompsontown, where he passed his entire life, highly respected by all in the community for his integrity and many good qualities. He married in Thompsontown, **Susan Bastress**, born in Montgomery County, Pa. Their children were: **John**, deceased; **Mary E.** (**Mrs. Jonathan Kiser**); **Alice** (**Mrs. H. D. Sowers**), deceased; **Annie**; **Emma** (**Mrs. Willis Kearns**); **William**, of Mifflin County; and **Samuel**. **Mr. Patton** was a soldier in the Civil war, being in the service six months, during which time he saw great hardships, including many severe marches. He was a Democrat in early life, but at a later period voted the Republican ticket. He was a consistent member of the Lutheran Church, prominent in Sunday-school efforts and in all good works. He took great pleasure in home life and the social circle. He was always deeply interested in making his home, on which he spent more than \$5,000, replete with comfort and elegance. He died April 14, 1896, and his wife January 6, 1895.

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