

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

David Kistler, familiarly known as '**Squire Kistler**', of Kistler, Perry County, Pa., was born in Tyrone Township, on the farm now owned by **William R. Dum**, May 23, 1827. He is a son of **John** and **Salome (Tressler) Kistler**. His great-grandfather, **George S. Kistler**, a native of Switzerland, came to America when a young man, some time before the Revolutionary war, and settled in Berks County, Pa. There his son, **Abraham Kistler**, was born; who removed in the latter part of the last century to that part of Cumberland County now called Perry County. **Abraham Kistler** was first married to **Maria Loy**, a lady of a prominent family in central Pennsylvania. Their children were: **Jacob**, resided at Waterloo, N. Y., where he died; **Abraham**, of Centre Township, now Spring, where he died; **Susan (Mrs. Jacob Stambaugh)**, resided and died in Tyrone Township; **John**; **William**, resident of Tyrone Township, deceased; **Samuel**, also died in Perry County; and **Elizabeth (Mrs. Frederick Dum)**, of Juniata Township, Perry County, where she and her husband died. After the death of his first wife, **Abraham Kistler** married again; his second wife was **Jane Ruprecht**; they had no children. His third child, **John Kistler**, was born in 1800, at Loysville, Pa., where he was reared, receiving his education in the rural schools of the neighborhood. He married **Salome**, daughter of **Andrew Tressler**, of Kutztown, Pa., who had been a Revolutionary soldier. He and his brother, **David Tressler**, having enlisted in the patriotic army, under Washington, **David** was taken ill; **Andrew** brought him home on horseback, and when they reached Berks County, they were obliged to hide themselves to escape being killed by some of their German neighbors, who were Tories. The children of **John** and **Salome Kistler** are: **Rev. John**; **Mary (Mrs. W. W. Snyder)**; **Catherine (Mrs. John Minnich)**; **Elizabeth (Mrs. D. M. Garland)**; **David**; **Samuel**; **Sarah**, wife of **Rev. George S. Rea**; **William**, deceased; **Andrew T.**; and **Rebecca Jane (Mrs. George Settle Moyer)**. **Mr. John Kistler**, a man of sound sense and intelligence, rightly appreciated those educational advantages which had been denied to himself, even the common school system having been established too late to be available for him. He was therefore determined that, so far as lay in his power, his children should have the benefit of the improved and more easily accessible facilities of their day. Two of his sons, **John** and **Andrew E.**, desiring to prepare themselves for the work of the ministry, were sent to Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, Pa. **John** graduated in theology, and was sent to Africa as a missionary; four years later, he returned, in broken health, having buried his wife in that far-off mission field. He was then for some time superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Loysville, Pa., after which, his health being in a measure restored, he accepted a call to a pastorate in Blair County, where he remained seven or eight years. He next went to Orrstown, Franklin County, Pa., thence to Carlisle, Pa., and he is now preaching at Riverton, Cumberland County, Pa., besides having an agency for the New York Life Insurance Company. **Andrew T. Kistler** entered the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg; through over-application to study, his mind became temporarily unsound, and he was forced to relinquish his purpose; but he is today considered the ripest Latin scholar in Perry County. **Mr. David Kistler** was for ten years a justice of the peace. The mother, **Mrs. John Kistler, Sr.**, died at Loysville, Pa., after which her husband passed the remainder of his life in the home of his daughter, **Mrs. Elizabeth Garland**, in Madison Township.

David Kistler's educational opportunities were no more than such as are afforded by the common schools; but his own ambition and taste accomplished more for him than in many cases is the result of an extended scholastic course. By diligent application at home to standard works in various departments, he obtained a large and varied fund of information, and prepared himself for a successful career as a teacher. Entering that profession in the fall of 1847, **Mr. Kistler** taught for fifteen years, and was considered one of the most superior instructors in the county. In 1853, he bought a farm, and from that time, he alternated the healthy employments of agriculture during the summers with the sedentary work of teaching that occupied his winter months. He had much fondness and considerable talent for debate; accordingly, in 1855, he organized a debating society in his school. He has always been, and is still, warmly and actively interested in educational work. He is prominent as a speaker in farmers' and teachers' institutes; eloquent, keen-witted and genial, he is always listened to with pleasure and profit. He has been called upon to address assemblies in all parts of Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1896, a Sunday-school convention was held at Carlisle, at which the Squire's brother was to be present. **Squire Kistler** wished very much to attend this convention; and as he had a horse which he wanted to sell, he planned to accomplish his trade on the same trip. At first sight, the two errands may seem incongruous; but as there is no absolute reason why they should be, no one who knows **Mr. Kistler** is likely to wonder at his associating them. During the session, he made some remarks, which not only were well-received by the audience, but elicited congratulations, accompanied with a kindly shake of the hand, from John Wanamaker, who presided over the convention. **Squire Kistler** was in his earlier years a Democrat, of the Jeffersonian type, but upon the organization of the Republican Party, he became one of its first supporters. He voted for Gen. John C. Fremont for the presidency. He has never sought office for himself.

David Kistler was married in 1847, when only twenty years old, to **Susan**, daughter of **George Rice**, of Madison Township. They had the following children: **Lloyd Knight**, went to Kansas in 1867, is now a farmer near Waterville, Kan.; **Prof. John L.**, of Hartwick Seminary, in New York, a brilliant scholar; **George R.**, went to Kansas about 1873, and is farming near Waterville; **Sarah E. (Mrs. Dorsey Fulton)**, of Trego County, Kan.; **David A.**, of Chicago, Ill., graduate of Carthage College, Ill., studied law and was admitted to the bar, but never practiced, has the general agency of the State of Iowa for a publishing house, is connected with the editorial staff of the New York Tribune, married an artist who studied painting in Europe; **William A.**, farmer of Waterville, Kan.; and **Susan R.**, went to India as a missionary in 1884, returned home on a visit in 1895, and after going back to the mission field in February, 1896, was married there to **Rev. Dr. Chester**, of the Presbyterian Church. **Mr. Kistler's** first wife died in the fall of 1863. After several years of widowhood, he married **Maria Slocum**, daughter of **William Anderson, Jr.**, of Blain, Pa. The children of this union are: **Oscar**, a mechanic, resides in Kansas; **Charles Edward**, died aged sixteen; **Mary S. (Mrs. Charles Kyner)**, at home; **Howard A.**, at home; **Isaac N.**, deceased; **Jacob M.**, deceased; **Benjamin F.**, deceased; **Catherine A.**, deceased; **Rebecca I. (Mrs. Samuel R. Dobbs)**, of Madison Township; **Ida P.**, at home; and **Frank G.**, deceased. **Mr. Kistler** is a member of the Lutheran Church, in which he has held several offices.