

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

William H. Knouse, Swales, Juniata County, Pa., was born in Susquehanna Township, Juniata County, August 15, 1836, son of **Daniel** and **Catherine (Zeller) Knouse**. **Christian Knouse**, his grandfather, who was of Prussian descent, but a native of Montgomery County, Pa., removed to Northumberland County, Pa., while he was a young man, and was there engaged in farming. There, also, he married **Catherine Oberdorff**, of Adamsburg, Snyder County, Pa. He removed to Juniata County in April, 1830.

They had nine children: **Elizabeth**, wife of **George Lehr**, both deceased; **Daniel**; **Catherine**, wife of **Henry Zellers**, both deceased; **Sarah**, widow of **Abraham Wilt**, of Juniata County; **Mary**, widow of **Henry Lightner**; **Herman**, deceased; **Samuel**, deceased; **David**, deceased; and **Margaret**, widow of **Joseph Kain**, of Susquehanna Township. Mr. **Christian Knouse** died in 1850, and his **wife** died in 1852. Mr. Knouse was a Democrat. He was a respected member of the Lutheran church, in which he was chosen to the eldership. His son, **Daniel Knouse**, born in Northumberland County in 1811, received a common school education, but by diligent reading in his hours of leisure, he has accumulated a great store of useful and interesting information. He is especially a close student of the Bible; has read it through over and over again. He is fond of discussing Scriptural questions, and has cultivated his natural talent for argument to a high degree. He began business on his father's farm, and the cultivation of the soil has been his vocation throughout life. By prudent and judicious purchases made from time to time, he has become the owner of a farm of 120 acres in Susquehanna Township, on which he has made many improvements, building a fine dwelling, barns, etc. His political views are Democratic. **Daniel Knouse** was married in Susquehanna Township to **Catherine**, daughter of **Frederick Zellers**, a farmer of Snyder County, where she was born. Their children are: **Eliza (Mrs. William Chubb)**, of Susquehanna Township; **John**, of Greenwood Township; **William H; Christian**, of Snyder County, Pa.; **Sarah**, wife of **Amos Miller**, both deceased; **Daniel**, of Sunbury, Pa.; **Lucy**, deceased; **Kate (Mrs. Henry Hendrick)**, of Snyder County; **Solomon**, of Monroe Township; and **Leah (Mrs. Pontius)**, of Elkhart, Ind. **Mrs. Catherine Knouse** died in 1851. **Mr. Knouse** married as his second wife **Eliza Haas**, of Susquehanna Township, Juniata County; their children are as follows: **Eli** of Mifflin County, Pa.; **Fianna (Mrs. George Long)**, of Perry County, Pa.; **Amelia (Mrs. Abraham Long)**, of Perry County; **Nelson**, of South Bend, Ind.; and **Amanda**, who died young. **Mrs. Eliza Knouse** died in 1895. Mr. Knouse still resides on the homestead, a venerable and respected inhabitant of the township; he has reached the age of eighty-six. He was formerly a member of the United Brethren Church, and although not attached to any denomination, endeavors to regulate his life according to Christian principles.

The education of **William H. Knouse** consisted of a course in the common schools, supplemented by two terms in the academy at Marklesville, Pa. He remained on the farm with his father until he became of age; he then went to work on another farm for two years, saving his wages to pay for his tuition at school; after a term in school, he taught during the next winter. He then engaged himself as clerk in a store during the summers, and taught in the winter season, alternating the two occupations in this way for several years. He taught school in Perry and Juniata Counties, and was occupied in this way for eleven years. During the war of the Rebellion, he enlisted, in February, 1864, at Philadelphia, in the One Hundred and Twelfth

Pennsylvania, Second Heavy Artillery, Battery B, under Colonel Gibson and Lieutenant Geissinger. He was in the battle of Petersburg. During the most of the period for which he enlisted, he was detached from his company for clerk's duty in the hospital department. After a service of twenty-five months, Mr. Knouse was mustered out at City Point, Va. Returning home, he continued his useful work of teaching, and later turned his attention to farming, in Susquehanna Township. There he cultivated ninety acres of land, and made improvements upon the tract, erecting a house, barn, etc. In January, 1877, he removed to the farm on which he still resides, and which measures seventy-one acres. Here he has made many improvements, and has been very successfully engaged in raising live stock, of which he possesses many valuable species. He is careful in the selection of his stock, employing the best blooded cattle, etc.; his prime Jersey cows and excellent horses are deservedly admired by competent judges. Mr. Knouse was elected sheriff of Juniata County in 1873, on the Democratic ticket, by a good majority. He served three years, and his efficiency as an official, added to his worthy personal character, procured him many friends. He is a charter member of Lost Creek Grange, P. of H., is Master, and has held all other offices in the Grange.

In 1879 he conceived the idea of organizing a local farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company for the County of Juniata. After about six months of incessant effort, contending with prejudice and suspicion on the part of those whom he meant to benefit, he succeeded in completing an organization for which the farmers of the County owe him their lasting gratitude, as it affords them cheap insurance in a perfectly reliable company. He was the efficient secretary of the company for fourteen years after organization.

William H. Knouse was married in October, 1867, in Perry County, to **Nancy Mickey**, widow of **George Kempfer**. The children of this marriage are: **Austin**, died young; **Oliver P.**, farmer, married **Ada Kauffman**; **Kate**, died young; and **Mervin**, now a young man and resides with his father. Mr. Knouse is a member of the Lutheran Church.

George Kempfer, the first husband of **Mrs. Knouse**, was a native of Centre Township, Perry County, where he was all his life engaged in farming. He was of German descent. **Nancy Mickey**, his wife, was born in Perry County. They had one child, **William H. Kempfer**, a carpenter; he married **Ella B. Sausaman**, and has children, **Ida**, **Annie** and **George**; his wife died October 15, 1891. **George Kempfer** was killed in the battle of Petersburg, April 2, 1865; he belonged to Company I, Two Hundred and Eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was a Republican. He held membership in the Lutheran Church.