

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

George William Kochenderfer, Ickesburg, Perry County, Pa., was born September 10, 1841, in Saville Township, Perry County, son of **John** and **Mary Ann (Ritter) Kochenderfer**. His grandfather, **Peter Kochenderfer**, was descended from a German family; he became a resident of Perry County many years ago, coming from an eastern County of Pennsylvania, while this central region was still very wild. He died comparatively early in life, leaving his wife burdened with the management of the farm, as well as with the rearing of their large family of children. But she was a woman of great energy, and was equal to the emergency. She superintended the farm, employing laborers, and giving attention to stock raising, besides the cultivation of the soil. Thus she maintained her young family in comfort, and trained them to industry. Their children were: **George; John; David; Jacob; William; Elizabeth (Mrs. John Shuman); Mary (Mrs. Jacob Kell); Margaret (Mrs. Andrew Kell);** and **Catherine (Mrs. George Hall)**; all now deceased.

The second son, **John Kochenderfer**, born in 1815 in Saville Township, then Tyrone, was a farmer. He continued for some time after his marriage to work as a laborer for others. From 1844 to 1846, he was in mercantile business in Loysville, Pa.; from 1846 to 1852, he was tenant of the farm left by his father, which in the latter year he bought from the heirs of the estate, making it from that time forth his permanent residence. **John Kochenderfer** was a Democrat, and was elected to various township offices, besides serving one term as county commissioner. His wife, **Mary Ann Ritter**, was born in 1814. Their children are: **Peter**, a workingman of Newport, Pa.; **George William; John R.**, farmer, of Saville township; **Martin L.**, clerk for Pennsylvania Railroad Company in Philadelphia for many years; **Amos**, farmer of Saville township; **Charles L.**, a resident of Iowa since 1881, is now a dealer in wood at Sioux City; **Edgar M.**, postmaster at Ickesburg; **Rebecca A. (Mrs. D. C. Hollenbaugh)**, of Lancaster County, Pa.; and **Mary J. (Mrs. Henry Lenig)**, of Milford, Pa. **John Kochenderfer** was a member of the Reformed Church. He died on the homestead in 1877; his wife survived him until 1890.

A lifelong resident of the home farm, **George W. Kochenderfer** obtained his education in the common schools of his vicinity, completing his course at the high school in Landisburg, Pa., and at the Loysville Academy. He taught school in Centre County, Pa., during the winter of 1864-65, and subsequently for about seven terms in Saville Township. In 1870, he rented the home farm, of which in 1884 he bought 86 acres. In 1895, he built a new dwelling, a comfortable and convenient home, in which he now resides. Besides this farm, **Mr. Kochenderfer** owns two tracts of land, containing respectively 43 and 21 acres. He has much improved his property. He is a staunch Democrat; has served in several township offices; has been auditor, and is now fulfilling his sixth year as tax collector. He has been a member of the election board.

George William Kochenderfer was first married in 1867, to **Margaret Dromgold**, who died in 1872. In 1875, he married **Matilda Bernheisel**, of Green Park, Perry County, Pa., who is still living. Their only child is **Sarah Ann**, but they are rearing a little girl, whose name is **Mary Ellen Garman**. **Mr. Kochenderfer** is an esteemed and useful member of the Reformed Church, with which he has been connected since his boyhood. He is a deacon; for two terms he acted as elder. His wife is also a member of the same church.