

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

**Perry Kremer**, Millerstown, Perry County, Pa., was born March 14, 1818, at McKees Half Falls, then in Union, now in Snyder County, Pa. He is a son of **Frederick** and **Mary (Hill) Kremer**. The first settlers of the **Kremer** family came to this country from Germany. **Mr. Kremer's** grandfather, **Frederick Kremer, Sr.**, was a native of Berks County, and a farmer. He and his wife, **Mary Elizabeth Kremer**, removed with their son, **Frederick**, and his family in 1812, to Union County, traveling in wagons, and going by way of Pottsville, Pa. The father and son were associated in the purchase of property near McKees Half Falls, but from the time of the removal, the old gentleman lived at leisure, exempt from active duties. He died at the age of eighty-three, about the year 1829; his wife survived him for ten years, and was a nonagenarian when she died. They had several children whose names are not on any existing record. One of their daughters, **Mrs. Snyder**, died near Pottsville; another child married and removed to the State of New York.

Their son, **Frederick Kremer, Jr.**, was born on a farm in Long Swamp Township, Berks County. He was educated by German school masters, and in that language; in narrating the circumstances of his boyhood, he used often to tell of the pupils going to school in the morning furnished with provisions enough to last over night, so that if a heavy storm came on, they need not venture to take the long walk home. Those were the days when a farmer had to be also a teamster, and carry his produce by wagon to the city markets; this **Frederick Kremer** did, and brought back supplies for the family in his market wagon. He married in Berks County, and at the time of his removal to Union County, had eight children. Passing through Schuylkill and adjacent counties, they observed black spots in the road, but were far from suspecting their nature, or the value of the treasures of coal that they revealed. The property purchased by the **Kremers** in Union County consisted in part of the mill property now owned by the **Weisers**, of Juniata County. Here **Frederick Kremer** spent the last years of his life, dying in June, 1850; his first wife, who was the mother of all his children, died about 1826. He was again married, to **Mary Fisher**, who survived him for forty years. **Mr. Kremer** was a Democrat. His religious belief was that of the Lutheran Church. His children were: **Peter**, deceased, lived in Seneca County, O.; **Joseph**, died in Stevenson County, Ill.; **Benjamin**, M. D., of Brighton, Washington County, Ia., died there, and his widow died in 1894, aged eighty years; **John**, resided first in Ohio, later in Stevenson County, Ill., where he died; **Eliza**, died just before the time appointed for her marriage; **Perry; Benneville**, resided on the homestead, where he died; and **Frederick**, resided in Stevenson County, Ill., where he died. The wife of **Dr. Benjamin Kremer** was **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Dr. Samuel Maley**, of Millerstown, Pa., a prominent citizen, and for one term a member of the State legislature.

During the boyhood of **Perry Kremer**, the common school system was established in Pennsylvania, so that the education begun in the subscription schools was finished under the new institution. The first schools which he attended were taught in German. His studies often had to give way to the requirements of farm work; such business as tending stock, riding the horse on the barn floor, in threshing time, etc., naturally falling to the share of the strong and willing boy.

In those days, the modern labor-saving agricultural implements, being as yet unknown, more hands were required to perform the work of cultivation than are needed now.

**Mr. Kremer** continued to live at home until his marriage, which took place in Pfoutz Valley, Perry County. He married **Nancy**, daughter of **James** and **Sarah (Jones) Gilfillan**, who was born in Greenwood Township, April 21, 1821. **Mr. Gilfillan** was a native of Perry County, but his wife had come from Chester, Pa. **Mr. and Mrs. Kremer** first resided for seven years on the **Kremer** homestead, Snyder County, and next on **James Gilfillan's** farm in Greenwood Township, Perry County, for three years. **Mr. Kremer** then bought his present home, a farm of about 200 acres; this was a venture, as he had no money, but by his diligence and excellent management, he had paid all his indebtedness in the course of a few years. He has very much improved the place, by erecting new farm buildings, &c. His home was destroyed by fire in the summer of 1875; but it was insured, and he immediately set about rebuilding. He owns a half-interest in a brick building at Millerstown. During the war, **Mr. Kremer** made considerable money on wheat, which sold then at two or three dollars per bushel.

**Mr. Kremer** is a staunch Democrat. In 1865, he was elected county commissioner, and served a term of three years. He was twice nominated for associate judge. He has served in several township offices, and always efficiently. From 1872 to 1883, he resided in Millerstown, during which time he served as burgess of the borough for two terms. He was treasurer of the Bridge Company at Millerstown; was also president of the Farmers' Bank at Millerstown from 1873, and, notwithstanding the great panic of that year, the bank continued for six years or more, when the banking company dissolved, and the bank was removed to Newport. **Mr. Kremer** is now enjoying the leisure and repose which fittingly crown a career of useful activity. His robust appearance bespeaks a sound physical constitution. He has many friends, and his varied experiences and excellent memory make him an entertaining companion.

The children of **Mr. and Mrs. Kremer** are: **James G.**, farmer, born November 22, 1843, lives in Tuscarora Township, married **Ellen Kerr**, and has one son and four daughters, of whom one, **Nancy**, is married to **Prof. A. P. Diffenderfer**, and two are teachers; **Henrietta H.**, born March 10, 1846, married **J. R. Black**, and both are deceased, leaving one daughter and six sons; **William F.**, farmer, of Fullerton, Nance County, Neb., married **Jennie Aldrich**; **Charles D.**, farmer, born April 14, 1850, married in Tuscarora Township, to **Ephelia Yohn**, who died in Millerstown, after which he went to Green County, Ia., married **Sarah Bordner**, and finally removed to Nance County, Neb.; **Thomas J.**; **Sarah Alice**, was married in 1881 to **Dr. G. W. Campbell**, of Newport, Pa.; **Mary Margaret**, born March 11, 1858, and died when a year and a month old.

**Thomas J. Kremer** was educated in the common schools of Tuscarora Township, and the high school and select school at Millerstown. In 1874, he entered the Farmers' Bank at Millerstown as clerk, and soon exhibited marked ability in the discharge of his duties. By faithful and diligent application to business, in which he was strictly honest and upright, he soon won the confidence and esteem of the patrons of the bank, and of the officials of the same. The latter, to show their appreciation of his worth, promoted him within two years to the responsible position of cashier, in which he continued to render creditable service to the institution. When the banking firm went out of business, **Mr. Kremer** was selected to settle its affairs, which he did in

a manner eminently satisfactory to all concerned. In 1883, he came back to live on the farm with his father, and conducted the farm until 1890, when he and his wife removed to Millerstown, and resided there for three years. During part of that time, he was in the grain and coal business.

He was married, March 11, 1880, to **Myra E. Keely**, of Millerstown, who died August 29, 1893. She was an active and consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, in which **Mr. Kremer** is an earnest worker; he has been a trustee since about 1885 or 1886, and was on the building committee having in charge the remodeling of the church. Upon the death of his wife, **Mr. Kremer** returned to the old home at the request of his aged parents, and now has general charge of his father's business interests. He is a Democrat, and has always done his share towards the success of his party.

**Perry Kremer** was brought up in the Lutheran church, but after his removal to Tuscarora Township, joined the Presbyterian Church, to which he still adheres. He is active in promoting the welfare and work of the church; was a trustee, and held other offices also.

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