

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, Comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry, Pennsylvania, Volume 1, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers 1897

Joseph S. Leffard, Mattawana, Mifflin County, Pa., was born near Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pa., April 11, 1835. He is a son of **William Smith** and **Catharine (River) Leffard**. His paternal grandfather, **John Leffard**, was a native of Germany. He and his wife came to America in a sailing vessel, landed at Philadelphia, Pa., and were hired out to pay for their passage over. After remaining for some time in the city of "brotherly love," **Mr. Leffard** removed to Huntingdon County, and was employed in clearing land for the **Rev. William Smith**, the founder of Huntingdon, Pa. Sometime after he rented a farm in Porter Township, Huntingdon County, where he spent the remainder of his life. **Mr. John Leffard**, or **Leffert**, as he spelled the name, was an industrious and energetic farmer, interested in local affairs and identified with the Democratic Party. He and his wife were members of the German Reformed Church. Both died in Porter Township. **Mr. Leffard** had reached his ninety-seventh birthday. Their children are: **John; William S.; Adam; Joseph; Letitia;** and **Catherine**. All are dead. **Mr. Leffard's** maternal grandfather, **John River**, a German by descent, served his country in the war of 1812. He was killed in the battle of Lake Erie, September 10, 1813. **Mr. Leffard's** father, **William Smith Leffard**, was a namesake of the **Rev. Mr. William Smith**, the founder of Huntingdon, Pa. He was taught both German and English, and received what was then considered a good education. He learned shoemaking and worked at his trade in Porter Township until he was able to purchase a farm of 145 acres in the same township. He built a comfortable house and barn, and made many other improvements in his property. **Mr. Leffard** was a Democrat, but afterwards joined the Republican Party.

He was married in Porter Township to **Catharine**, daughter of **John River**, who was a farmer of Morrisons Cove, Blair County, Pa. Their children are: **Anna Mary (Mrs. James Cornelius)**, deceased; **Eva R. A.**, widow of **Osborne Laird**, of Porter Township; **Joseph S.**; **Anna Elizabeth (Mrs. John Laird)**, of Porter Township; **Enoch I.**, resides at Alexandria, Pa.; **John**, resides in Porter Township, Huntingdon County; **William Smith**, agent of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad at Warren, Pa.; **Adam R.**, Huntingdon, Pa.; and **Sarah C. (Mrs. Scott Beigle)**, of Tyrone, Pa. **Mr. William S. Leffard** died in 1875. His wife died at Spruce Creek, Huntingdon County, in 1889. They were both members of the German Reformed Church.

Joseph S. Leffard worked with his father on the farm and attended the district schools of Porter Township, during the winter term of three months, until he was sixteen. For two years he was a clerk in the store of **Joseph Douglas**, McConnellstown, Huntingdon County, Pa. After spending one year at home he obtained a situation with Dunn & Cunningham, general merchants, Huntingdon, Pa., which he held for two years, after which he spent one year in the store of Henry C. Walker, at Alexandria, Pa. **Mr., Leffard** was ambitious and eager for knowledge, and with the money he had saved while he was in the store, he was able to attend the State Normal School at Millersville, Pa. Until 1861, he spent the summer months at Millersville, and taught during the winter. After three years at home he enlisted in 1861, at Huntingdon, in the First Pennsylvania Light Artillery, Battery D, Captain Rosney, of Philadelphia, Colonel Campbell, of Huntingdon, and went with his company to Harper's Ferry, where he joined his battery. He took part in the battles of Harper's Ferry, Halltown, Berryville, Winchester and Fisher's Hill. In the

battle of Cedar Creek he was gunner in Battery D, and fired the shot which opened the battle, October 19, 1864. He remained at Harper's Ferry until he was mustered out at Harrisburg, June 30, 1865. After a short visit to his home in Porter Township, he spent two years working in the oil fields of Pennsylvania, near Oil City, Venango County. Returning to Porter Township, he taught at Spruce Creek during the winter of 1868-69, and in May, 1869, secured the position of assistant agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Spruce Creek Station. Eight years after, in 1877, he was appointed agent at McVeytown, a position which he still holds, filling the office to the entire satisfaction of the company. He is also agent for the Adams Express Company at McVeytown. **Mr. Leffard** is a property owner in Mattawana. He cast his first vote for James Buchanan, but has ever since voted the Republican ticket. He takes an active interest in local affairs, and has been a school director for three years. He is a member and officer of the Lodge N. 376, F. and A. M., McVeytown; he is also a member of Chaplain Stevenson Post, No. 482, G. A. R., at McVeytown, Pa. He has held various offices in the Post, of which he was chaplain and is past commander. He was also a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the Good Templars.

Joseph S. Leffard was married at Lewistown, Pa., in 1869, to **Emma**, daughter of **Edward Beigle**. Her father was a stone mason of Spruce Creek. Their children are: **Edward B.**, trainmaster's clerk at Altoona, Pa.; **William**, of Washington, D. C.; **Charles G.**, assistant agent at McVeytown, Pa.; **Joseph Howard**, telegrapher; **Bertha P.**; **John N.**, died in youth; and **Mabel A.** **Mr. Leffard** is a member of the Presbyterian Church at Mattawana, and was superintendent of the Sunday-school, in which he was for many years a teacher.

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