

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

Capt. George W. Linthurst, retired, of Port Royal, Juniata County, Pa., was born September 17, 1823, at Landisburg, Perry County, Pa. He is a son of **Frederick** and **Sarah (Albright) Linthurst**. **Frederick Linthurst**, born in Germany, emigrated to America, settling in Sunbury, Northumberland County, Pa.; he was a harness maker, and was accounted the best workman in that occupation in the State. From Sunbury, he removed to Landisburg, Perry County, where he continued to work at his trade until 1836. He then tended a lock for three years, having been appointed to that position by Governor Ritner. In 1839, he removed to Port Royal, Juniata County, where he followed his trade until his death, in 1865. **Frederick Linthurst** married in Sunbury **Miss Sarah Albright**, born near Philadelphia. They had eight children: **Jacob**; **William**; **Eliza**; **Margaret**; **Sarah**; and **Frederick**, all deceased; **Henry**, of Philadelphia; and **Charles**, of Denver, Col. **Mrs. Sarah Linthurst** died in Port Royal in 1860. **Frederick Linthurst** was an old line Whig; he was much respected in the community. He was connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

George W. Linthurst had no school opportunities, in his youth except those afforded by a very poor subscription school, held in an old log school house, and in session only a short time during the winter. In summer, he assisted his father at the canal-lock. At the age of sixteen, while residing at Port Royal, he began business life as steersman on a canal boat.

At the age of eighteen, he took charge of the Leach line boats, and retained that position for thirteen years; at the time of his appointment, he was one of the youngest captains ever given command of a boat. By the time he had been on the canal three years, the captain had saved enough money to buy a home for his father and mother; he accordingly purchased for them a comfortable residence in Port Royal. After thirteen years with the Leach line, he bought a boat for himself, named the "Flying Cloud," which he ran for six years from Port Royal to Wilkes-Barre, Harrisburg and Columbia. Then, selling his boat, he rented a farm in Milford Township, Juniata County, on which he spent seven years. The canal, however, had a fascination for **Captain Linthurst** which he could not resist. He again purchased a boat, named the "W. C. Pomeroy," which he ran until the time of the memorable flood that devastated the city of Johnstown, when his staunch boat was landed in an apple orchard; it was the last boat that ever passed over the Juniata Canal between Rope Ferry and Hollidaysburg. **Mr. Linthurst** is the oldest line boat captain now living, but withal, a hale and hearty man, who would not, were boats now running, take second place with any captain in their management.

Captain Linthurst was married in Port Royal in 1848, to **Christiana Hamlin**, born in Milford Township, a daughter of **George Hamlin**, a farmer of that township, of Scotch-Irish descent. Of their eight children, four, **Mary**, **Loretta**, **William** and **George** died in early life. The survivors are: **Charles**, a lineman of the Pennsylvania Railroad, between Marysville and Baltimore; **Annie**, residing at home; **Beale**, a lineman on the Pennsylvania Railroad; and **Albright B.**, a telegraph operator. The **Captain's** faithful partner in life's toils died in July, 1896, from a rupture produced by a fall. She was a woman of most estimable character, universally esteemed by her friends and acquaintances. In the spring of 1865, **Captain Linthurst**, then forty years of

age, enlisted at Harrisburg, in Capt. Levi Musser's Company A, of the One Hundred and First Pennsylvania Volunteers. During the greater part of his term of service, the regiment was on guard duty at Roanoke Island. **Mr. Linthurst** was here taken sick, and was for a month in the Albemarle Hospital, from which place he was transferred to Newberne, N. C. No man in Juniata County is more universally esteemed than **Captain Linthurst**. He is genial and full of interesting reminiscences of the old canal days. One incident of that period is deserving of mention. Fifty years ago, during the Mexican war, he conveyed Captain Moorhead, of Philadelphia, and his company of one hundred men, on their way to the seat of war. Captain Moorhead was killed in the first battle in which he participated. **Captain Linthurst** is the only man now living who was on the boat the day that he, as its captain, transported the company. **Captain Linthurst** is a member of Wilson Post, G. A. R., at Mifflintown. He was at one time a member of the I. O. O. F. He is a staunch Republican, and a consistent member of the Lutheran Church.

www.theperryhistorians.org