

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

Abel Longacre, dealer in implements, Newport, Perry County, Pa., was born in Pikeland Township, Chester County, Pa., March 11, 1837, son of **Joseph** and **Sarah (Essick) Longacre**. **Joseph Longacre** was born in Chester County, Pa., in 1800. He was a carpenter; about 1839, he removed to Juniata County, where he died in 1854. His political views were Democratic. In religious faith and connection, he was of the Reformed Church. His wife, **Sarah (Essick) Longacre**, died in 1876, aged seventy-four years. Their children are: **Edward**, died in Philadelphia in 1893; **Isaac**, served three years in the late war, was captured at the second Bull Run battle, and now resides in Juniata County; **Joseph**, died in 1894 in Juniata County; **Peter**, of Mt. Union, Huntingdon County, Pa.; **Abel**; and **Jacob**, who served in the late war, and died of cancer, caused by wounds received in the battle of Chancellorsville.

Abel Longacre, at two years of age, was brought by his parents to Juniata County, where they settled about one mile and a half from Thompsontown. His school days were few, as he early became a bread-winner, being set to work while quite young, on the farms throughout the valley. He remained at home until his marriage, after which event he set up a home of his own in the neighborhood, where he remained until 1864; he then removed to Newport, Pa.

The military record of **Mr. Longacre** shows him to be a patriotic citizen and a soldier of pluck and valor. He enlisted, September 3, 1864, at Philadelphia, Pa., in Company H, Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry, known as the "Cameron Dragoons." From that date he was in active service until the close of the war, doing all that was demanded of him, and that was within his power, in camp, on the march and in the fight, to defend the nation and preserve free institutions. During a week or ten days, just at the close of the war, his regiment was a part of General Sheridan's army, but prior to that it was an independent brigade, which made a part of the cavalry forces so efficient in raiding in the rear of the rebel forces.

The first raid in which **Mr. Longacre** participated was in that made toward the city of Richmond, during which several of the brigade were wounded and killed. On the 7th of October, the Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry was in the fight in front of Richmond, on the Chapman farm. During the remainder of the winter this brigade did picket duty, and **Mr. Longacre** was detailed as night scout for six weeks. After leaving winter quarters in the spring of 1865, the regiment was in active service from March 29 until April 9, all of this time under fire. It took part in the battle of Five Forks and fought against General Lee until he surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox, May 19, 1865. The regiment was honorably discharged **Mr. Longacre**, and returned home, suffering from heart disease contracted while in service. He was under the doctor's hands for two weeks and for several weeks was almost totally disabled. During the summer of 1865, he was engaged in blasting rock, in day labor and in farming. For a time he was foreman at the Eagle iron ore banks, for the furnace company at Newport. During two years of the time since the war, **Mr. Longacre** has resided at Thompsontown, Pa. In the spring of 1896, he opened business at Newport as a dealer in implements.

In March, 1858, **Mr. Longacre** was married to **Miss Mary A. Kenzer**, of Perry County. Their children are: **Alice**; **Katherine**; **Harry**, killed on the railroad; **Carrie**, died aged sixteen years; **Edward**; **Etta**; **Frank** and **Myrtle**. **Mr. Longacre** is in favor of the free coinage of silver. He is a member of the Methodist Church.