

History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, By H. H. Hain, Harrisburg, Pa., 1922 - Hain-Moore Company, Publishers, Harrisburg, Pa.

Edgar Newton Lupfer, Prominent Manufacturer.

Edgar Newton Lupfer, president and general manager of the Springfield (Ohio) Metallic Casket Company, was born February 28, 1856, on the **Lupfer** farm, adjoining on the west the original site of New Bloomfield, and a part of it now covered by half of that borough. He is the eldest son of the late **William** and **Hannah M. (Pillow) Lupfer**, his mother being from the vicinity of Dellville, in Wheatfield Township. **Jacob Lupfer** came to Perry County in 1778, from Montgomery County, where he had dwelt three years, after coming from Wittenberg, Saxony. He was the ancestor of the **Lupfers** and purchased the lands lying next to the **Barnett** tract, which passed from his great-grandson, **William Lupfer**, to **W. A. Sponsler**, in 1875. This property was later owned by **John Adams**, and in 1921 came into the possession of **Robert E. McPherson**. There is a legend that this entire tract was once purchased from the Indians for a string of beads and a bull calf. Unlike so many names, the name **Lupfer** is spelled just as it was signed by **Jacob Lupfer** on the passenger list of the ship "Phoenix," which sailed from Rotterdam and landed at the port of Philadelphia, November 22, 1752. On that farm were born four generations of **Lupfers**, — **Casper Lupfer**, his son **David Lupfer**, his grandson, **William Lupfer**, the father of **Edgar Newton Lupfer**, who was also born there. **Casper Lupfer** was a public spirited citizen and deeded in perpetuity two tracts of land, lying side by side, to the rear of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches, as a burial ground, and in that belonging to the Reformed Church, he sleeps.

In the spring of 1861, **William Lupfer**, his wife and family of four children, removed from Perry County to Shelby, Ohio, and engaged in the dry goods business, a year later engaging in the same business in Shiloh, Ohio. In 1870 he sold that business and moved back to Perry County, purchasing from the heirs of his father, **David Lupfer**, who had died that spring, the **Lupfer** farm. In the fall of 1876, the family again removed, to Springfield, Ohio, the city in which the son, **Edgar Newton Lupfer**, has become so successful.

His earlier schooling was augmented by attending the High School at Shiloh, Ohio, until fourteen, and the New Bloomfield Academy from 1870 to 1873, when he entered the office of the *New Bloomfield Times*, of which **Frank Mortimer** was then editor, to learn the printing trade. Serving his three-year apprenticeship he worked but four and a half days as a journeyman printer, but is said to have "never regretted his experience in a printing office, as it stood him well in hand in after life." On removing to Ohio at the termination of his apprenticeship, his father induced him to drop the desire to follow his trade and to join him in conducting a grocery store. In 1884 he was appointed general agent of the Superior Grain Drill Company (now the American Seeding Machine Company), of Springfield, having his headquarters at Harrisburg, and supervising ninety-two agencies in eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. He was married in the fall of 1884 to **Elizabeth Ann Baker**, and in the spring of 1885 returned to Springfield, which he regarded as his home, and purchased an interest in a new firm, then started only about a year, to manufacture a new patented metallic casket. In 1886 the company was incorporated with **Mr. Lupfer** as secretary. The president was **Ross Mitchell**, who was born in

Landisburg, Perry County, and who went with his parents to Springfield when quite a boy. He became very wealthy and successful, and was a member of the firm of Warder, Mitchell & Co. of Springfield, manufacturers of harvesting machinery, which firm later became the Warder, Bushnell & Glessner Co., and then the International Harvester Co. **Mr. Mitchell** became one of the largest landowners in and around Springfield, Ohio. He lived to the age of ninety-three years, highly respected, a successful son of old Perry County.

Elected as its secretary at its incorporation, **Mr. Lupfer** two years later, in 1888, was made secretary and general manager, which position he held until October 16, 1917, when he succeeded Charles E. Patric as president, being continued as general manager as well. During his connection of thirty-five years with the Springfield Metallic Casket Company, **Mr. Lupfer** has seen it grow from a small concern with a small line of goods to a large corporation with an extensive variety of funeral supplies, with a demand from coast to coast, and even in foreign lands.

Mrs. Lupfer died March 23, 1916, leaving one son, **Robert Newton Lupfer**, secretary of the Elwood Myers Company of Springfield. **Mr. Lupfer** on January 11, 1919, married **Miss Minnie L. Bergman**, of Madison, Wisconsin.

Mr. Lupfer has, by his ambition and foresight in managing, brought his company, the Springfield Metallic Casket Company, not only to a position of leadership among the powerful corporations of Springfield, itself a great manufacturing city, but, as well, to be one of the strongest, if not the strongest concern in its line in the world.

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