

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

Thomas F. Martin, Andersonburg, Perry County, Pa., was born June 24, 1849, on the homestead in Madison Township, which has now been in the family for three generations. He is a son of **John** and **Sarah (Spotts) Martin**. His grandfather, **Thomas Martin**, was without doubt of English birth. He settled at an early date in Madison Township, on the farm now owned by his grandson and namesake. He married **Miss Hobaugh**; their children were as follows: **John**; **Ellen (Mrs. Isaac Batturf)**, of Chambersburg, Pa.; **Jane (Mrs. William B. Stambaugh)**, now residing in Wayne County, Neb.; and **George**, a clerk, at Steelton, Pa. The eldest of this family, **John Martin**, born on the homestead in 1826, was obliged to be content with the slender educational advantages offered by the subscription schools, and, his father dying in his thirty-eighth year, while his children were still young, the boy had to face the stern realities of life at an early age. He was for a time hired out to various persons, among whom he met with little sympathy and a great deal of exaction. But severity and hard work were met with the sturdy endurance which belongs to the strong English character. The boy persevered in his work for his masters until he was eighteen or twenty years old; he then returned to the home farm, and managed it for his mother, who had stocked it, until his marriage. After that time, he worked it on shares for some time; but owing to some dissatisfaction on the part of his brother, **Mr. Martin** left the homestead, and worked the old **McClure** farm for three years. At the end of that time, the **Martin** farm was sold by the heirs, and **John Martin**, purchasing it, once more came into charge of it, and made it his home until he died in 1891. **Mr. Martin** was a Republican. In his political and religious convictions he was as firm and decided as he was faithful in his discharge of duty. His wife, **Mrs. Sarah (Spotts) Martin**, now resides with her daughter, **Mrs. Stroup**. Their children are: **Thomas F.**; **Mary (Mrs. George Stroup)**, of Jackson Township, Perry County; **Sarah (Mrs. Miles Bower)**, of Jackson Township, deceased; **William**, farmer, of Madison Township; **Laura (Mrs. W. F. H. Garber)**, of New Bloomfield, Pa.; **J. Calvin**, merchant at Andersonburg, Pa.; and **George D.**, farmer, of Jackson Township. **Mr. Martin** was a member of the Reformed Church.

Thomas F. Martin received his education in the common schools, which, although they afforded opportunities somewhat superior to those at hand in the subscription schools, were as yet by no means liberal in mental culture. They were open only eight weeks out of the fifty-two, and the teaching force was by no means equal to that of the present day. At the age of fourteen, **Mr. Martin** began to follow the plough, and continued on the farm until he was twenty-two. He then tried the efficacy of Horace Greeley's well-known prescription, "Go west, young man!" and being industrious and thrifty, found it a salutary one for him. He obtained employment in a sawmill in Colorado, at \$45 per month, with board; and so satisfactory was his work and his general conduct in that position, that his wages were soon raised to \$92 per month. At the end of a year, he had saved \$250. He then returned home, his father having repeatedly written, urging him to do so, and cultivated the farm for his father until he was twenty-five years old. At that time he purchased a farm of 203 acres in Turbett Township, Juniata County, being helped by his father to a part of the purchase money, and leaving a part as a debt. This farm he cultivated for three years, then sold it, and bought the **Grosh** farm, in Madison Township, which he cultivated for nearly sixteen years. At length, selling this farm, he bought the homestead, which has since

continued to be his dwelling place. It consists of 162 acres of good arable land. **Mr. Martin** began dealing in cattle about 1885. He buys fat cattle for shipment in the spring, and in the fall buys feeders. **Mr. Martin** makes numerous business trips to Buffalo and New York City, N. Y.; to Pittsburg, Chicago, the State of Tennessee, and other points. He has one of the finest and best managed farms in the county, and in all his business displays prudence, enterprise and shrewdness, combined with fair and just dealing. He finds time in the midst of his business activities for public services; has served his township as assessor, for nine years, and also for some years as school director.

Thomas F. Martin was married November 12, 1871, to **Anna Beda Frances**, daughter of **George M.** and **Lydia Ann (Bower) Loy**. **Mrs. Martin** was born December 2, 1855. Their children are: **Sally Grace**; **Clarence Loy**; **Annie Mary**; and **Russell John**; all at home. **Mr.** and **Mrs. Martin** are members of the Reformed Church.

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