

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

**Francis M. McKeehan**, deceased, of Ferguson, Perry County, Pa., was born October 20, 1834, in Perry County. He was a son of **John** and **Margaret (Lupfer) McKeehan**. His paternal grandfather was a native of Ireland; but **John McKeehan**, his father, was born in Perry County, and for many years was in the furnace business. He served several terms as register and recorder, and was the agent of certain insurance companies. His wife was a daughter of **Casper** and **Barbara (Clouser) Lupfer**, well-known citizens of Perry County, who were of German birth. **Mr. Lupfer** was a farmer. The **Lupfers** belonged to the Dunkard Church. The children of **Mr.** and **Mrs. John McKeehan** are: **Mary (Mrs. George Spahr)**; **Catherine (Mrs. Henry Kirkpatrick)**; **Margaret**, widow of **Isaiah Gantt**; **Sarah (Mrs. Levi Smith)**; **Addie (Mrs. James Richards)**; **Rev. John L.**; **Annie (Mrs. Joseph B. Hawley)**; **Ellen (Mrs. Henry G. Swartz)**; **Charles N.**, residing on the homestead; **Elijah**, deceased; and **Francis M.**, deceased. **Mr. John McKeehan** and his wife were members of the Reformed Church; both have departed this life.

Having acquired his education in the common schools and the Bloomfield Academy, **Francis M. McKeehan** became a teacher at the age of eighteen, and continued teaching until he was twenty-three. From the time of his marriage, in 1855, he was occupied with farming. In September, 1864, he left his farm, his wife and little family, to serve under "the starry flag," in defense of the Union. He was enrolled in Company E, Two Hundred and Eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served for nine months. While in the army, **Mr. McKeehan** contracted a disease which eventually caused his death. Upon receiving his honorable discharge, he resumed farming, and followed that vocation during the rest of his life. **Mr. McKeehan's** upright character and good judgment were appreciated by his neighbors, and he was chosen to fill various responsible positions among them. Besides holding other township offices, he was for some time a school director, and for many years justice of the peace.

**Francis M. McKeehan** was married, May 29, 1855, to **Margaret A.**, daughter of **John** and **Catherine (Smith) Bealor**. Their children are: **Henry**, married **Addie Beaver**, and resides in Scranton, Pa.; **Samuel**, also of Scranton, married **Kate Lutz**; **Bella (Mrs. Edward Whitcomb)**; **Scott**, married **Ella McAfee**, resides in Centre Township; **Lillie (Mrs. Francis Minnich)**, of Steelton, Pa.; **Curtin**, a printer, resides in California; **Kate (Mrs. Emory Young)**, of Scranton; **William**, residing on the homestead; **Annie L. (Mrs. Samuel Clay)**; **Ada C.**; **John A.**; and **Dunn O.** **Mr. McKeehan** was a member of the Reformed Church, and served her faithfully, first as deacon, afterwards as elder. He was active in the latter office, and was serving the consistory as secretary at the time of his death. **Mr. McKeehan**, like a good soldier, died at his post of duty. He had long been superintendent of the Sunday-school; on the last day of his life, he taught the Bible class, and died on his way home from school. It was March 25, 1894, and his age was sixty years, five months and five days. Thus closed a life of earnest devotion to duty.

**Mrs. Margaret A. (Bealor) McKeehan** was born October 22, 1832. Her parents were natives of Perry County, where her father, **John Bealor**, had all his life been a farmer. He had held the township offices of supervisor and school director. **Mrs. John Bealor** was a daughter of **John** and **Elizabeth Smith**. Their children were: **Samuel**, deceased; **David**, died aged fourteen;

**Catherine**, deceased; **John**, died when a year old; **Elizabeth**, widow of **Michael Crist**; **Benjamin**; **Bernard**; **Mary** (**Mrs. Jacob Koons**); **Margaret A.** (**Mrs. McKeehan**); and **Joseph**. The parents were both members of the Union Lutheran and Reformed Church. **Mr. Bealor** was trustee, elder and secretary, and for a year superintendent of the Sunday-school. He died in March, 1855, at the age of sixty-two; his wife died in February, 1874, aged seventy-seven years. **Mark Bealor**, father of **John Bealor**, was born in Germany, and came to America in his youth. He was a farmer. He settled at Toughkenamon. Pa., married, and reared a family of eight children: **John**; **David**; **Daniel**; **Joseph**; **Benjamin**; **Elizabeth** (**Mrs. John McDowell**); **Margaret**, wife of **Philip Raymond**; and **James Blair**. **Mrs. McKeehan's** maternal grandfather, **John Smith**, was a native of Germany, who settled in Perry County; he was engaged in milling, he married **Elizabeth Smith**; their children were: **John**; **Margaret**; **Elizabeth** (**Mrs. James Polk**); **Martha** (**Mrs. George Keiser**); **Catherine** (**Mrs. John Bealor**); and **Daniel**. **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** are both deceased; the latter died in 1840. They were members of the Lutheran Church.

**Mrs. McKeehan** still resides on the homestead, the cultivation of which she has superintended since her husband's death. Her daughter, **Mrs. Annie Clay**, was postmistress at Ferguson from the fall of 1892 until March 1, 1897, when she was succeeded by her sister, **Ada C. McKeehan**. Her son, **William McKeehan**, born March 2, 1865, has, since his education in the common schools was completed, given his attention principally to the farm. In 1893, he went to Chicago, Ill., where for six months he was in the steel works. In 1895 he was elected supervisor in Centre Township, and served for a year. His politics are Republican. He is a member of the Reformed Church, and a worker in its Sunday school.