Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, 1896, Chambersburg, Pa J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers

Mckelvy, Jacob J., contractor and builder No. 1311 North Front street, Harrisburg, was born in New Buffalo, Perry County. Pa., October 26, 1849. He is a son of Jacob and Rebecca (McElwee) McKelvy. When he was about three years of age his father died and his mother removed to Harrisburg. He was educated in the public schools of that city. He learned carpentry, which he has since followed, of J. A. Slentz. He afterwards became foreman for Mr. Slentz and about 1885 engaged in business for himself. He makes a specialty of stair work. He built the addition to St. Genevieve's Academy, on Maclay Street, the Mercy Home and many residences in the city. In 1864 he enlisted in company I, Seventy-seventh regiment, Pennsylvania volunteers, and served until the close of the war. He is a Republican and a member of S. G. Simmons Post, No. 116, G. A. R. He was married, in 1867, to Miss Mary E. McElwee, daughter of David McElwee, of Perry County. Pa. They have two children: Jennie S. and James Alfred. He attends Messiah Lutheran Church.