

A History of the Juniata Valley and its People Under The Editorial Supervision of John W. Jordan, LL.D.; Librarian of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Illustrated; New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company; 1913; Volume II

MILLAR



The paternal grandparents of the late **Albert Millar** of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, were **Henry** and **Mattalina (Brenn) Millar**, both born in Germany. His maternal grandparents, **John** and **Ann (Burns) McMullen**, were of Scotch-Irish descent.

(II) **William D.**, son of **Albert** and **Mattalina Millar**, married **Elizabeth McMullen**, who bore him seven children.

(III) **Albert**, sixth child of **William D.** and **Elizabeth (McMullen) Millar**, was born near the village of Gap, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, March 16, 1860, died in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, May 22, 1906. When he was seven years of age his parents moved to Harrisburg, where he attended the public schools, his brilliant mental qualities winning him the commendation and respect of his teachers and class mates. He was graduated from high school at the age of sixteen years, winning the honor of being

Salutatorian of his class. Being compelled to earn his own living, he entered mercantile business as a clerk, but soon afterward became an employee of the Jackson Manufacturing Company in their engine room. He soon won the attention of his employers, who, seeing the mettle of the lad, took him from the engine room and placed him in the office, where he again quickly demonstrated his ability, winning rapid promotion. He was later assigned to the office of the firm in Pittsburgh as bookkeeper, remaining two years. These years had but strengthened his purpose, formed long before, to become a lawyer, and at the end of his two years in Pittsburgh he returned to Harrisburg and registered as a law student in the office of **Joshua M. Wiestling**, then one of the leading members of the Dauphin County Bar. On February 13, 1884, after passing a creditable examination he was admitted to the bar and for one year practiced alone. He quickly gained a clientage and secured recognition from the older members of the bar by his conscientious and skilful handling of the cases entrusted to him.

During his second year he was admitted to a partnership with Judge George Kunkel, later president-judge of Dauphin County, this association continuing until 1898, when **Mr. Millar** was elected district attorney for Dauphin County. He was thrice elected solicitor of the county and in 1894 was elected district attorney, continuing by re-election for two terms. On retiring from that office he was appointed by the town commissioners, in 1904, continuing in that office until his death two years later. His private practice was largely in the appellate courts of the state and in the United States Courts, he having been admitted to all state and federal courts of the district. His fame was not confined to Dauphin County, but he was frequently engaged in

important litigation in other counties. As an attorney he was learned in the law and skilful in its application, conscientious and faithful, keen of perception and a hard worker, giving his cases thorough preparation. Before a jury he was clear and forceful, presenting his facts in a clear, logical, convincing manner, trusting to the strength of his presentation, rather than to rhetoric—never seeking an opportunity to display his eloquence to dazzle a jury, but in well chosen language stating facts and precedents to jury and court. He was always courteous in all his dealings with the court and fair to his brethren of the bar, winning from judges and lawyers a confidence and esteem terminated only by death. As a prosecutor he was relentless with the guilty, but while giving them privileges accorded them by the law, always, if possible, brought them to conviction and punishment, while stricken in the prime of life, he gained prominence at the bar and in public esteem that only falls to the lot of a natural leader. He was one of the most brilliant and prominent lawyers of that section and won his prominence fairly.

Full as was his life and busily employed as he was in his legal business, he did not neglect his duties as a citizen, but took the deepest interest in the politics of his county and state. In fact, he made politics his recreation, never being happier than when in the thick of a political fight on behalf of his friends. In his early life he engaged in these conflicts for pure love of the battle and never outgrew his genuine pleasure in campaigning, although not for personal gain. He wielded a large political influence. His resourcefulness, keen sense of humor and unswerving devotion brought to him a host of loyal and admiring friends from all walks of life. He was public spirited, interested in the cause of education and in the welfare of the community, and gave to the city a liberal donation of land for park purposes, in order that his fellow citizens might have adequate opportunity for recreation and enjoyment. His was an open-handed generosity, yet his charity was never ostentatious. Of him it may truly be said: "He was a friend of the people." A fair estimate of the life and character of the man as a citizen is given in the loving tribute paid to him by his lifelong friend and former law partner, President Judge Kunkel, at the meeting of the Bar Association convened at the time of his death:

I have listened with extreme satisfaction to the kind tributes which love and friendship have paid to the memory of our departed friend and brother, and it is needless to say that in them I sincerely join. The life that has gone out I knew and loved. The attributes of his mind you have had an equal opportunity with me to know and admire, but, touching the qualities of the heart and soul, my long and intimate acquaintance with him have given me a truer knowledge and a fuller admiration.

"The character of our friend can best be portrayed by reference to those qualities, which, though common to human nature, were singularly absent in him. He disdained show and ostentation. He was frank and open. He was unpretentious. He was without guile. He was incapable of pretence or simulation, and he sought to be taken for what he really was and for no other. But, remarkable above all else, he was a man in whom there was no envy. In this world of strife and contention, where, in the struggle for preference and power, for wealth and station, this characteristic of human nature is displayed, he rejoiced in the success and advancement of others, friend or foe, and felt in no degree the sensation of envy's influence.

"With these qualities there were combined in him unswerving loyalty to friends and an unselfish and untiring activity for their interests. His course was one labor of friendship; his public and his

private life one sacrifice for others. His stay here has been brief, but, in that brief period, he has spent the energy and achieved the success of many years.

"To say his presence among us will be missed is to say what may be said of anyone, but to say his forceful influence in public life, his delightful companionship at the bar, and his unostentatious beneficences in private life will be missed, is to express in feeble and inadequate terms the deep and lasting impression his life and character have made upon his fellows. The body may decay, the physical presence of our friend and associate may pass from our view, but the delightful memories, which have entwined themselves about his strong personality, can never die. In this world of evanescent things these will remain."

On September 10, 1902, **Mr. Millar** married **Josephine B. Michener**, of Duncannon, Pennsylvania; children: **Albert Elkin**, born June 12, 1903, and **Josephine M.**, born August 23, 1906. After the death of her husband, **Mrs. Millar** returned to Duncannon with her children, and there resides, occupying her old home.

(The Michener Line).

The first emigrant of this name to arrive in Pennsylvania from France settled at Plymouth, Montgomery County, where he reared a family and lived until death.

Eleazer Michener, his son, was born in Plymouth, which was his home until after his marriage and the birth of some of his children. About 1838 he moved to Penn Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania, where he purchased and cultivated a farm until his death many years later. He married **Mary Fye**; children: **Jonathan**, a farmer, lived and died on the Perry County homestead farm; **Katherine**, died young, unmarried; **Philip**, a noted worker in the Lutheran Church, died in Duncannon; **Joseph**, of whom further; **Martha**, died in December, 1912, unmarried; **Eleazer** (2), a veteran of the civil war; **Doan**, killed in a railroad accident; **Lewis**, died aged twenty-seven years; **Washington**, the only survivor (1913), lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Joseph, son of **Eleazer Michener**, was born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, in 1830, died in Duncannon, Pennsylvania, February 26, 1907, aged seventy-seven years. He was in his ninth year when his parents moved to Perry County, and there he was educated and ever afterward lived. He was for many years a contractor and builder of Duncannon, later engaging there in the grocery business, and continuing until his death. He was an honorable, capable builder and a good business man. While raised in and always partial to the Lutheran Church, he never formally connected with any religious body. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, holding the perfect esteem of his brethren. In political faith a Republican, he held several of the town offices.

He married **Margaret M. Mell**, born in Petersburg (now Duncannon), Perry County, in 1836, died in Perry County, March 10, 1912, aged seventy-six years, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. She was the daughter of **Adam** and **Agnes (Reed) Mell**, both old settlers of Perry County. **Adam Mell**, of German parentage, lived in Duncannon and there died. His wife survived him many years until 1865, but never remarried; children of **Adam Mell**: **Matilda**, married **John Topley**, and died in Duncannon; **Sarah**, married **Joseph Waite**, and died in New

Buffalo; **John**, a veteran of the civil war, died in Duncannon; **Christina**, married **Theodore De Normandie**; **Catherine**, the only survivor, married **Samuel Saul**, and resides in California; **Harvey**, died in Harrisburg; **Margaret M.**, married **Joseph Michener**, of previous mention; children: **Edward**, married **Hannah Gross**, and resides in Duncannon; **Mary Agnes**, married **Andrew Shull**, and resides in Harrisburg; **Matilda**, married **Andrew George**, and resides in Duncannon; **Martha Ann**, married **William Owen**, and resides in Duncannon; **Josephine B.** (of previous mention), widow of **Albert Millar**, resides in Duncannon in the home of her girlhood; **Anna D.**, married **Frank Harper**, and resides in Duncannon.

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