

A History of the Juniata Valley and its People under the Editorial Supervision of John W. Jordan, L.L.D. Librarian of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., Volume II, Illustrated, New York, Lewis Historical- Publishing Company, 1913

## **The Murtiff Family**

**Parks Murtiff**, of Lewistown, Pennsylvania, is lineally descended from a German family of the same name, the members of which have for centuries made their homes near Stuttgart, Germany, where they were, and are, farmers and mechanics, that class of people most approved by the German Kaiser. The first of the name to come to the United States was **George**, of whom further.

(I) **George Murtiff** was born in Germany and emigrated to the United States when quite young, landing in New York. Later he found his way to Pennsylvania and located in Adams County, where he followed the family pursuit of farming, as he had done in the Fatherland. He purchased land between Bendersville and Idaville and there settled, lived and died. He married Margaret, a native of Pennsylvania, but probably of German descent. They both died on the **Murtiff** farm. Among his children was **Emanuel**, of whom further.

(II) **Emanuel**, son of **George** and **Margaret Murtiff**, was born in 1827, in Adams County, Pennsylvania. He married **Mary Jane Shuff**, born in 1830, in Adams County, daughter of **George** and **Rebecca Shuff**; **George Shuff** was a blacksmith and was known far and wide as a master of his trade. After marriage **Emanuel Murtiff** went to Mexico, Juniata County, Pennsylvania, and attended a lock on the Juniata Canal for about eighteen years, becoming known, and favorably so, to the travelling public. In 1889 he gave up the position that he had so long and faithfully held and moved to Lewistown, Mifflin County, and made his home with his son, **Parks**, until the final summons came in 1909. He was ever a staunch Democrat, voting the straight ticket. Both he and his wife were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Children: **Parks**, of whom further; **Anne** and **Cora**.

(III) **Parks**, son of **Emanuel** and **Mary Jane (Shuff) Murtiff**, was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, August 21, 1858. He was reared on the banks of the Juniata Canal, where he early imbibed broad and helpful views of life, which have stood him in good stead in his subsequent dealing with mankind. **Mr. Murtiff** received his education in the common schools of that section. Leaving school while yet a youth he began driving a canal boat. His first venture in that occupation was the canal boat "The Delaware," of Mifflintown, under **Captain William Sellers**; and **Mr. Murtiff** made the first trip on the "J. S. Grabill Jr.," of Mifflintown, under **Captain D. S. Louder**, on her maiden voyage. As the years passed he became, successively, steerer and then captain. He purchased a canal boat, the "Manbeck and Nelson," named for the large and important firm of Manbeck & Nelson, grain and coal dealers of Mifflintown, which is still engaged in the same business. He afterward sold the "Manbeck and Nelson" at a profit. November 12, 1889, he engaged in the hotel business at McVeytown, taking over the Mansion House, in which enterprise he was successful, knowing exactly how to please the public. This he retained for six years and built up a large patronage by his courteous treatment of the public and his genial manners. He went to Lewistown and was proprietor of the Miller House for three years. He took over the Central Hotel and remodeled that hostelry, making it one of the most comfortable ones in the place. May 1, 1905, he purchased the St. Charles Hotel, in Lewistown,

and has since been its proprietor, establishing an enviable name for himself as a boniface and making his house one of the best known in that section. Besides the St. Charles Hotel he owns a fine farm in Mifflin County. He is a Democrat and has always worked for the party, but has never held nor asked for office. He is a member in high standing of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; and of the fraternal Order of Eagles, as well as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He married in October, 1887, **Margaret Carpenter**, of Lewistown, daughter of **Byron** and **Maria D. (McAllister) Carpenter**, of Lewistown, (see **Carpenter** line). Children: **Esther**, married **John Hassen** and has one child, **John Parks: Marguerite, Parks, Jr.**, and **Byron**.

(The **Carpenter** Line).

**Gabriel Carpenter**, grandfather of **Margaret (Carpenter) Murtiff**, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and came from an English family of that name, the immigrant of which crossed the Atlantic about 1664. He married **Mary Pines**, who was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania, December 25, 1809, daughter of **John** and **Elizabeth (Miller) Pines**. **Gabriel Carpenter** and his wife moved to Juniata County and lived in various places, his vocation, that of teamster, making change of residence necessary frequently. He died in Reward, Perry County, and his wife died August 4, 1892. Children: 1. **Jacob**, deceased. 2. **John**, deceased. 3. **Gabriel**, deceased. 4. **Byron**, of whom further. 5. **Giles**, lives in Braddock, Pennsylvania, a blacksmith; he married **Catherine Louder**. Their children: **Floyd, Florence, Nellie, Harry** and **Earl**. 6. **Elizabeth**, deceased. 7. **Susan**, deceased. 8. **Mary**, married (first) **Charles Thompson** and by him was the mother of four children: **Nancy, Martha, Andrew C.** and **Annie**. She married (second) **Enoch Castine**, and the children by this marriage are: **Edward, Harry** and **John**. 9. **Matilda**, deceased.

**Byron Carpenter**, son of **Gabriel** and **Mary (Pines) Carpenter**, was born February 23, 1843, in Juniata County, Pennsylvania. He married, April 14, 1865, **Maria D. McAllister**, born in Huntingdon County, October 2, 1843, a daughter of **Samuel** and **Rachel (Brannen) McAllister**. **Samuel McAllister**, father of **Maria D. (McAllister) Carpenter** and grandfather of **Margaret (Carpenter) Murtiff**, was born in 1806, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He married **Rachel Brannen**, born in Maryland, in 1802. He was the son of **Gresham** and **Nancy (Bryan) McAllister**. Children: 1. **Jane**. 2. **Rebecca**. 3. **Eliza**. 4. **William**. 5. **Sarah Ann**. 6. **Margaret Ellen**. 7. **Maria D.**, married **Byron Carpenter** (see above). 8. **Samuel**.

**Samuel McAllister** died in 1861, and his wife, **Rachel (Brannen)** died in 1892. **Rachel (Brannen) McAllister**, wife of **Samuel McAllister**, was a daughter of **William** and **Mary (Gladden) Brannen**. He was born in Franklin, and she in Scotland, and they were married in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. They both died in Franklin County.

**Byron Carpenter** was reared in McVeytown, and was educated in the public schools of Mifflin County, and moved to Lewistown when a young man. During the civil war, February, 1862, he enlisted in Company F, 107th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and served until the cessation of hostilities. He was with his regiment in the three days' battle at Gettysburg, and saw active service during the years of his enlistment. At the close of the war he returned to Lewistown and worked in Furnace from 1866 to 1877. For thirty-six years he has been sexton of the Lewistown

Methodist Episcopal Church and cemetery. He is a staunch Republican, and with his wife, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They have one daughter, **Margaret**, born September 12, 1866, married **Parks Murtiff**. (See **Murtiff III**).