

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

Andrew P. Nickel, New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa., was born near Oak Grove Furnace, Perry County, June 27, 1845. He is a son of the late **Casper** and **Susan (Carroll) Nickel**. His grandfather, **Henry Nickel**, came from Germany in early life, and lived at Mt. Holly, Cumberland County, Pa. He was a cooper, and besides making kegs, he manufactured rakes and forks, which he used regularly to take to Carlisle for sale. A vigorous constitution and a simple, healthy life made him still able to carry on this business at the age of ninety-three. His wife died in Germany; **Casper**, and two other children, who accompanied him to this country, were the only ones who lived to mature years. At last, one day, the familiar figure of the good old cooper was missed from the streets of Carlisle; he had died, lacking only four years, of having lived a century. The maternal grandparents of **Mr. Andrew P. Nickel** were among the early settlers of Perry County. **Casper Nickel**, who was only about twelve years old when he came with his father from Hesse Darmstadt to New York, in 1829, came at a later date to Perry County, and here met and married **Susan Carroll**. Of their nine children, two died in infancy: **Catherine** died at the age of six years; and **John H.** was accidentally killed in 1858, at the age of sixteen. Those surviving are: **Joseph V.**; **Eliza**; **Andrew P.**; **Sarah (Mrs. Samuel Eby)** and **Alfred**. **Mr. Nickel** maintained his family by general labor. He died in January, 1867, aged fifty; his wife survived until 1888, dying at the age of seventy-eight. Both were members of the Lutheran Church.

Andrew P. Nickel attended the public schools until he was thirteen years old. He was brought up on a farm, and of course gave his aid as a strong and willing lad to the work going on around him. He remained on the farm after leaving school until he was sixteen, and then was apprenticed for three years to **John Roop**, a cabinetmaker of Mechanicsburg, Pa. During the time of his apprenticeship, he enlisted in the United States Army, July 18, 1864, being enrolled in Company I, One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers; he served for one hundred days, and was discharged in November, 1865. This patriotic service rendered, **Mr. Nickel** went back and perfected himself in his trade, and then worked as a journeyman in Carlisle for three years, after which he returned to Mechanicsburg for three months. In 1866, he was employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at Altoona upon the inside finishing of passenger cars; he remained at this occupation a little over a year. In 1868, he went to Duncannon, Perry County, and worked at his trade with **S. H. Moses**, but after a year spent there, he went back to Altoona, and was employed until 1870 in the same department in which he had worked before. In 1870, he bought out the undertaking and furniture establishment of **Mr. Fenstermacher**, then located in the principal square. In 1871, he removed to his present establishment at the corner of Main and Church Streets, where he has ever since carried on his business with great success. He has one of the largest establishments in his line of business in New Bloomfield. **Mr. Nickel** is an active member of New Bloomfield Lodge, No. 380, I. O. O. F.

Andrew P. Nickel was married March 24, 1870, to **Ellen**, daughter of **S. H.** and **Mary (Wade) Moses**. Their children are: **Elsie V.**; **Mary A.**; **Carrie**; **Harriet**; **Helen H.**; **Samuel M.**; **Casper**; and **Virginia**. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.