



J. North

James North, Mifflintown, Juniata County, Pa., was born November 6, 1819, at Thompsontown, Juniata County. He is a son of **James** and **Rachel (Jordan) North**. The **North** family is of Irish and Scotch descent. One of its ancestors, **Caleb North**, aided Washington's army in crossing the Brandywine. He was afterwards sheriff of Philadelphia County; many of his descendants are still living in the city and its vicinity.

William North was the grandfather of **Mr. North**, of Mifflintown. Among the children of **William North** were: **James**; **Caleb**; **Joshua** and **Rebecca**. **Joshua** served in the war of 1812. **Rebecca** became the wife of **Dr. Ezra Doty**, of Juniata County. **James North**, with his brothers **Caleb** and **Joshua**, established a tannery at Millerstown, Perry County, Pa.

About 1800 he removed to Juniata County, at that time still a part of Cumberland, and set a tannery in operation at Thompsontown. He was an active and intelligent man, of the kind to whom a prominent share in the affairs of a

community seems to fall by natural right. He was appointed justice of the peace at Thompsontown, and served in that capacity for a number of years. **James North** was a member of the Presbyterian Church. **Mrs. North** was a daughter of **Francis Jordan**, of Millerstown, then in Cumberland County. They had ten children: **Thomas**, established a tannery at Richfield, Juniata County, died at that place; **Lewis**, carpenter and undertaker, died in Hamilton County, O.; **Caleb**, an educator, settled in the west at an early date, died at Atchison, Kan.; **Sarah (Mrs. Postlethwaite)**, of Mifflin County, deceased; **Euphemia (Mrs. Philip Strouse)**, of Mexico, Juniata County; **Hannah W.**, deceased; **James**; **Amos J.**, engaged in milling, at Atchison, Kan., where he died; **Rebecca (Mrs. Col. John Bryner)**, of Peoria, Ill.; and **Eliza B. (Mrs. David Witherow)**, of Peoria, Ill. **James North** died in February, 1828; his wife passed her declining years in the home of their son **James**, where she died in 1872.

During his early youth **James North** attended subscription schools at Thompsontown. With that sturdy independence and industry which have been the source of his success in life, the boy paid for his tuition in the same way in which the prodigal in Scripture earned his scanty livelihood—by feeding swine. His employer was **Robert Thompson**, who, finding him alert and faithful, afterwards employed him to work on a canal boat, paying him five dollars per month. Adding

frugality to diligence, in time young **North** became master of a boat of his own. In January, 1836, he was deputed by the **Thompsons** to take charge of a branch store at Newton Hamilton; for the first two years he received only his board and clothing; after that, for a few years, he was paid one hundred dollars per year, and was then admitted to partnership; he continued in this business until 1844, when his partner died, and he was obliged to close out the business. He then removed to Juniata County, where he cleared a farm of 120 acres, which was the patrimony of his wife. He became connected with the engineering corps of the Pennsylvania Railroad at its organization in 1847, and after the road was opened the company made him agent at Millerstown, where he remained one year, and was then transferred to Mifflin station (Patterson), where he was ticket agent, freight agent and Adams Express agent. **Mr. North** was assistant to **H. Jones Brooks** in constructing the first telegraph line west of Harrisburg, Pa. He was contractor for the poles, merchandise, etc. He was the first telegraph operator on the line. During the early existence of the railroad, in order to win trade, he established a store, where he purchased all products brought to market, including poles, grain, etc. He also dealt in coal and lumber. He was the instructor in telegraphy of many young men who became prominent as operators, among whom were: **David Strouse**, who became superintendent of the military telegraph lines of the United States Government, under Col. Thomas A. Scott; **D. Homer Bates**, vice-president of Tradesmans National Bank, of New York; and others. **Mr. North** was in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for about thirty-five years, and then resigned in favor of his son.

Mr. North helped to map out the town of Patterson, and served as its first burgess. He has also been a member of the borough school board. When the post office was first established there, in 1853, he was appointed postmaster, and continued in office until the election of President Lincoln. Up to the year 1860, **Mr. North** was a Whig, but since that time he has been a supporter of Democratic principles. In 1884 he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He served for some time as clerk in the office of the secretary of the Commonwealth, but resigned in October, 1895. In 1852 **Mr. North** aided in organizing the Lewistown bank as a State bank, and served as a director, with **Mr. Doty** and **Mr. Parker**, giving real estate security. He was for seventeen years after associated with **Hon. E. M. Spear** in the Union Bank, of Huntingdon. He helped to organize the Farmers' Bank, of Harrisburg, and was for many years in its board of directors. For a short time he was president of the Juniata Valley Bank, of Mifflintown. **Mr. North** has been largely interested in farming. He formerly owned 1,600 acres, and still has two farms.

James North was married, November 12, 1840, to **Susanna Matilda**, daughter of **David Strouse**. She died November 19, 1896. Their children are: **Caleb C.**, assistant cashier of the Columbia National Bank, Washington, D. C.; **W. S.**, agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at Mifflin, and dealer in coal, lumber, etc.; **Rebecca J.**, wife of **F. W. Crider**, of **Hastings, Crider & Jackson**, haulers and merchants, Bellefonte, Pa.; **Herman Haupt**, attorney-at-law and member of the State legislature, Bradford, Pa.; and **Mary M.**, widow of **George Jacobs**, of Mifflintown.

Mr. North is an active member of the Presbyterian Church; has served as trustee for eleven years.