

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

**Samuel Noss**, of Duncannon, Pa., was born in Rye Township, Perry County, Pa., February 2, 1826. He is a son of **Lewis** and **Catharine (Foulk) Noss**, both of German descent. His paternal grandfather, born in Germany, emigrated to the New World before the Revolutionary war, and took part in that great struggle; and some of his descendants have participated in every great conflict in which the country has been engaged since independence was secured. **George Noss**, grandfather of **Samuel Noss**, was born in Lancaster County, Pa., and enlisted in the war of 1812 against Great Britain. His son, **Lewis Noss**, was born in Lancaster County, Pa., in 1793, and removed to Perry County about 1810. He was a farmer in Perry, Cumberland and York Counties. His death occurred in Perry County, April 7, 1855, at the age of sixty-two years. **Mr. Noss's** maternal ancestors, the **Foulks**, were early residents of Perry County; his mother's parents lived for many years in Rye Township. **Catherine Foulk** was born March 8, 1801, and was united in marriage to **Lewis Noss** in 1821. They lived together happily for thirty-four years. **Mrs. Noss** died April 20, 1874, nineteen years after her excellent husband had preceded her across the river of death. She was the mother of eleven children, and had forty grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. At the age of twenty, she united with Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, and remained a consistent and devoted member of that communion throughout her long life. Of the eleven children of **Lewis** and **Catharine Noss**, three, besides **Mr. Samuel Noss**, still survive. They are: **Sarah**, widow of **Cyrus Gamber**; **Elizabeth**, widow of **Daniel Houdyshell**; and **John H.**, who, through disabilities incurred while fighting in defense of his country during the Civil war, has been an invalid for fourteen years.

**Samuel Noss** was a year old when his parents removed to Cumberland County; in 1840 he returned with them to his native township. He acquired his education in the public schools of Perry and Cumberland Counties, and after leaving school, learned the blacksmith trade in Shiremanstown, Cumberland County. After the completion of his apprenticeship, he worked as a journeyman until April, 1818, when he started in the same business for himself, and conducted it successfully for eighteen years. Following this, he was for sixteen years in the retail shoe business; for the past fourteen years he has conducted a general merchandise business in Duncannon. He has been a continuous resident of the place for a period of fifty-two years. As might naturally be expected, a man of **Mr. Noss's** universally acknowledged ability, probity and integrity, has been the recipient of many flattering testimonials from his fellow-citizens of Duncannon and Perry County. Among the most important offices conferred upon him may be mentioned the following: in 1851, he was elected chief burgess of the borough of Duncannon, in which capacity he served ably and acceptably for one year; in 1878, the voters of Perry County elected him to the high office of associate judge, which he filled with credit for five years. He is a Democrat to the backbone, and a prominent member of Evergreen Lodge, No. 205, I. O. O. F.

**Samuel Noss** was married in Carlisle, Pa., February 22, 1819, to **Melinda**, daughter of **John** and **Anna (Frye) Green**, old and honored residents of Perry County, both now deceased; their memory is still revered by those who know their many virtues. The children of **Mr.** and **Mrs. Noss** are: **Linus**, born August 15, 1852, a sweet flower early transplanted by the reaper Death to fairer worlds, on March 30, 1855; **Caroline M.**, born August 20, 1850, died September 24, 1894;

**Linus H.**, born November 27, 1855, and now residing at Radford, Va.; **Annie S. (Mrs. William F. Reed)**, of Dauphin County, Pa.; and **George B.** The estimable mother of these children, **Mrs. Melinda Noss**, was called away from her husband and family, and from a large circle of friends to whom she was endeared by a thousand tender recollections, February 15, 1892, at the age of sixty-two years, five months and twenty-two days. The family are connected with the Lutheran Church, and attend its worship.

Any sketch of the **Noss** family would be incomplete without a fuller account of **George B. Noss**, youngest child of the venerable **Samuel Noss**, than could be given while speaking of the father. Born in Duncannon, December 2, 1861, he received his education in the public schools of that town and in a private school located at Millerstown, Pa. Since leaving school, he has been continuously engaged in his father's business, with which he is so identified as to make his name a household word throughout the borough. Like his father, he is a member of Evergreen Lodge, No. 205, I. O. O. F., and in political views is a Democrat.

**Mr. George B. Noss** was married in Duncannon, September 15, 1885, to **Elizabeth Ann Fritz**, daughter of **David** and **Sarah Fritz**, of Penn Township, Perry County; and this union has been crowned with one son, **Oscar Fritz**, born August 3, 1886. **George B. Noss** attends the Presbyterian Church.

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