

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

B. Frank Oliver, East Salem, Juniata County, Pa., was born July 11, 1834, in Bucks County, Pa. He is a son of **Benjamin** and **Mary (Hellings) Oliver**. **Benjamin Oliver**, father of **B. Frank**, born in Pennsylvania, of Welsh descent, was by occupation a fuller and weaver. He followed his trade in Bucks County, and later in Perry County, where he also gave some attention to farming. He was married in Bucks County to **Miss Mary Hellings**, a native of that county. Their children were: **John**, deceased; **William**, of Bucks County; **Edmund**, deceased; **Rachel**, widow of **Samuel O'Neill**, of Missouri; **Sarah**, deceased; **Charles**, deceased; **Benjamin Franklin**, of Delaware Township, Juniata County; **Mary (Mrs. John Bardell)**, of Tuscarora Valley; **Emily (Mrs. John Cross)**, of Philadelphia; **Margaret**, who died young; **Nathan**, deceased; **Martha (Mrs. Daniel Kepner)**; and **Frances J. (Mrs. Isaac J. Baldwin)**. **Benjamin Oliver** was a Democrat, and died in 1856, a good old Whig. He was a member of the Christian Church.

B. Frank Oliver attended the public schools of Millerstown, Perry County. For three years he lived with his uncle, **James Belair**, in Philadelphia. He then learned the blacksmith trade at Oakland Mills, Juniata County, with **Peter Diffendaupher**, with whom he remained three years. He next started in business for himself in East Salem, being one of the first blacksmiths in that section, and has resided there nearly all of his subsequent life. In 1884, he went to Nebraska, where he conducted a store for two and one half years, and then resumed work at his trade in Juniata County, Pa. In 1878, he retired from active labor. **Mr. Oliver** was first married, in 1858, to **Miss Margaret Harner**, born in Delaware Township, Juniata County. Of their five children two died in infancy. The survivors are: **John**, of Louisville, Ky.; **Joseph K.**, of Monterey, Cal.; and **William**, residing in New Jersey. His wife died in East Salem, in August, 1880, and he married, secondly, in 1883, **Anna Eliza Westfall**, widow of **Abraham Harner**, of East Salem. His second wife died in East Salem, in May, 1889, and on January 8, 1891, he married **Elizabeth Wert**, born in Snyder County.

Mr. Oliver has an army record of the most brilliant character. He enlisted at McAlisterville, in October, 1863, in Company D, One Hundred and Fifty-first Pennsylvania Volunteers, Capt. Walter L. Owen and Col. Harrison Allen. He participated in the battle of Chancellorsville, and on July 1, 1863, was wounded in the shoulder at Gettysburg, where the regiment performed deeds of valor which have seldom, if ever, been surpassed in history. At the expiration of nine months, the regiment was mustered out, with a most honorable record, and of all of its brave soldiers, none were braver than **Mr. Oliver**. He has been supervisor for nine years, was assessor, and served as census enumerator for the township in 1890. For forty years he has been a consistent member of the United Brethren Church. He is a trustee of the church and also superintendent of the Sunday-school.

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