

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

Robert Harvey Patterson, Honey Grove, Juniata County, Pa., son of **William** and **Mary (Neely) Patterson**, was born May 30, 1835, on the old **Patterson** homestead, his present residence. His great-grandfather, **Andrew Patterson**, also a farmer of Turbett Township, was a native of Ireland, and came to this county with five brothers, all of whom at first settled in Lancaster County, Pa., and all engaged in farming; but one afterwards returned to his native land, and remained there. They belonged to one of those old Scotch families who were driven by disturbed conditions in their original home to take refuge in Ireland; and residing in that country without intermarrying to any extent with its natives, they came to be known as "Scotch-Irish," a race at all times notable for strength and integrity of character. That son of **Andrew Patterson's** who became the grandfather of **Robert H.**, was **John Patterson**. He was born in Pennsylvania, and followed his father's calling. He owned a farm of 180 acres in Tuscarora Township, and improved it to some degree, erecting a barn and other buildings. He was a man of intelligence, and enjoyed so much of confidence and respect that he was appointed by the governor of Pennsylvania to the office of justice of the peace of his township, and elected by his fellow citizens to represent them for three terms in the State legislature. He was a Republican.

John Patterson married **Miss Lyons**, a native of the Tuscarora Valley. Their children were: **Alexander**, deceased; **James**, deceased; **Andrew**, deceased; **John**, deceased; **William**, deceased; **Robert**, deceased; **Elizabeth (Mrs. S. S. Kelly)**, deceased; **Phebe (Mrs. William McClure)**, of Perry County; and **Rachel (Mrs. James McClure)**, of Perry County. **John Patterson** adhered to the Presbyterian faith. He died in 1813; his wife survived until April 15, 1855, when she died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Kelly. Their fifth son, **William Patterson**, received common school training in his youth, and supplemented it by reading so extensively that he became a very well-informed man, especially on Scriptural topics. Following the Association of his grandfather and his father, he was a tiller of the ground; in 1833, he bought a farm of 200 acres in Tuscarora Township, the same one on which **Robert H. Patterson** now lives. He built a fine frame house, barns and other outbuildings, planted a well-assorted apple orchard, and made other improvements. He added the business of stock raising to that of farming. His wife, **Mary**, daughter of **John** and **Margaret (McFeeters) Neely**, was born near Waterloo, in Lack Township, Juniata County; her father was a farmer of the Tuscarora Valley. Their children are: **Robert H.** and **Rachel**, twins, of whom the latter died in infancy; **John O.**, of Page County, Ia.; **James A.**, of Page County, Ia.; and **Nancy (Mrs. Irvin McCulloch)**, also of Page County, Ia. **William Patterson** was an old line Whig, and was overseer of the poor in his township. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church at Academia, Pa. He died in 1846, while still a young man; **Mrs. Patterson** died at the home of her daughter, **Mrs. McCulloch**, in Iowa, January 5, 1881.

After being educated in the public schools of the Tuscarora valley, **Robert H. Patterson** devoted his attention to cultivating the home farm, of which, soon after the death of his father, he assumed the sole management. In this pleasant home, and in this most serviceable and dignified employment, combined with that of stock raising, he has passed his entire life, retiring from active duties in 1888. Besides building a new barn, etc., he has erected, in connection with his

brother **John**, a fine dwelling house, the one in which he resides. **Mr. Patterson** is a public-spirited citizen, and while attending diligently to his own affairs, has found time to serve the township well as supervisor, for two terms, as overseer of the poor, for two years, and as school director, being still a member of the board. He is a Republican, but is a man of broad enough mind to be liberal towards the opinions of those who differ with him. He is universally regarded as a substantial and estimable citizen.

Robert Harvey Patterson was married in 1871, near Waterloo, Pa., to **Martha J.**, daughter of **George McConnel**, a farmer of Lack Township, Juniata County; the **McConnels** are of Scotch-Irish ancestry. **Mr.** and **Mrs. Patterson** are members of the Presbyterian Church at Academia, of which the former is a trustee.

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