

History of Dauphin County, by Luther Reily Kelker, Custodian of Division Public Records of Pennsylvania With Genealogical Memoirs, Illustrated, Volume III, New York – Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1907

**Potter Family.** **Oscar R. Potter**, of Harrisburg, is one of the numerous representatives of an old family of Perry County, Pennsylvania, where his great-grandfather was the owner of a large farm, and where his Grandfather, **Jonas Potter**, was born and followed the trade of a mason during the active years of his life. **Jonas Potter** married **Barbara Stevens**, also a native of Perry County, and they were the parents of three children: **Lewis**, born 1827, died 1902; **Caroline**, born 1829, and **Levi**, of whom later. The mother of these children died in 1832, and the father in 1845. Both are buried in Perry County.

**Levi Potter**, son of **Jonas** and **Barbara (Stevens) Potter**, was born September 22, 1831, at Hunters Valley, Perry County, and obtained his education in the public schools. After leaving school, he was for some fifteen years, engaged in boating on the old Pennsylvania Canal. He owned and cultivated a small farm, and for about twenty-seven years was engaged in the tillage of a large farm which he rented. In 1888 he moved to Harrisburg, where for three years he was employed in the Harrisburg Foundry and Machine Works. He now leads a retired life in that city. He has always taken an active part in politics, and for a number of years was supervisor and also served as a judge of elections. He is a Democrat and a member of the Lutheran Church.

**Mr. Potter** married, June 18, 1854, **Sarah Ann**, daughter of **Jacob** and **Susan (Schaffer) Bear**. The former was born about 1810, in Perry County, and was by trade a blacksmith. He also owned a farm in Liverpool Township, which he cultivated in connection with his trade. He and his wife were the parents of ten children: **Catherine, Elizabeth, Molly, Polly, Jacob, Peter, Samuel, Sarah Ann**, born March 12, 1837, wife of **Levi Potter**; **Margaret** and **John**. **Jacob Bear**, the father died in 1850. The following children were born to **Mr. and Mrs. Potter**: 1. **Franklin**, died February 14 1882, married **Annie Schaffer**. 2. **Harrison**, born September 11, 1856, painter in Liverpool, Perry County, married **Emma Decker**, of that county. 3. **Sarah C.**, born November 6, 1857, wife of **Peter Walt**, electrician of Harrisburg. 4. **Alfred**, born May 15, 1859, of Philadelphia, dealer in wall-paper and painter's supplies. 5. **Charles**, born November 27, 1861, painter in Harrisburg, married **Maggie Bodmer**, of that city. 6. **Edward S.**, born April 30, 1864, painter and paperhanger of York, Pennsylvania, married **Annie Omer**, of Harrisburg. 7. **Ira C.**, born January 1, 1866, accidentally killed by a train near Mifflin, Pennsylvania, July 6, 1896, painter and paperhanger by trade, married **Laura Roberts**. 8. **Oscar R.**, of whom later. 9. **Caroline**, born October 3, 1869, died in infancy. 10. **Alice**, born January 3, 1871, wife of **Hillorius A. Bodmer**, painter and paperhanger of Harrisburg. 11. **Lewis Irwin**, born April 13, 1873, painter and paperhanger of Harrisburg.

**Oscar R. Potter**, son of **Levi** and **Sarah Ann (Bear) Potter**, was born April 21, 1868, at Bucks Valley, Perry County, reared on the farm and educated in the public schools. At the age of fifteen he went to learn painting and paperhanging with **Abram Roat**, of Duncannon, and after mastering the trade was employed by Dimert and Company, fancy painters and decorators, of Philadelphia. In 1891 he went to Harrisburg and there engaged in business for himself as a general painter and decorator. He was very successful, and in 1900 built the large store in Market Street where he now carries the finest stock of painting and paper supplies in Harrisburg. He employs a large number of men and his business extends throughout his own and the adjoining counties. He belongs to the Woodmen of the World, and in the sphere of politics affiliates with the Democratic Party. He is a member of the Lutheran Church.