

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

John Raffensperger, Mannsville, Perry County, Pa., was born in Juniata Township, Perry County, February 28, 1820, son of **John** and **Magdalena (Klinepeter) Raffensperger**.

Christian Raffensperger, his grandfather, was of German descent, and a native of York county; he took a double share in the business of life, being both weaver and blacksmith; an industrious and thrifty father of a family. His children, now all deceased, were: **Christian; Peter; Martin; Rudolph; John; David; Daniel; Catherine;** and **Christine.** **John Raffensperger's** maternal grandfather, **Adam Klinepeter**, was also a native of York County, Pa.; he was a soldier of the Revolution. He married **Anna Maria Long**, and had children: **Jacob; John; William; Mary; Magdalena; Elizabeth;** and **Sarah.** All of these are now deceased, as well as the grandparents, who lived to a very advanced age.

John Raffensperger, Sr., was born in York County in 1783. His principal trade was that of a blacksmith, to which he devoted most of his life; but, following his father's thrifty example, he added to his income by butchering during the winters. His wife, **Magdalena Klinepeter**, was also born in York County, in 1786. They had six sons and six daughters, none of whom reached adult years, and only one son, **John**, is now living. Those deceased are: **John; Caroline; Catherine; Elizabeth; Mary Ann; Samuel; William; Sarah J.; Jeremiah; Daniel;** and an **infant.** The **father** of the family died June 5, 1842, aged fifty-nine years, six months and fifteen days; the **mother** lived to see her eighty-fourth birthday, and departed this life June 22, 1870. They were members of the Reformed Church.

Brought up on a farm, **John Raffensperger, Jr.**, enjoyed only such advantages as were afforded by the common schools of the rural districts; but possessing one of those active and inquiring minds that find means for improvement in spite of discouragements, he succeeded in acquiring a good education, and in preparing himself to teach. He became a schoolmaster in 1844, and taught for six consecutive terms, alternating the quiet work of the schoolroom with the invigorating exercises of the forge. In 1839, **Mr. Raffensperger** removed to Centre Township, where he continued his business; in 1843, he purchased the farm on which he now resides, and which he cultivated prosperously until 1892. During his active years, he served the township as clerk, auditor, and judge of elections; in 1863, he was elected assessor, but did not serve out his term, on account of having enlisted for a more

urgent and stirring service. In August, 1864, he was enrolled in Company E, Two Hundred and Eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers; he served until the close of the war, participating in the battles of Fort Steadman, and of Petersburg, and in other soldierly service. He was honorably discharged in June, 1865. At the time of his enlistment, he had served almost nine years as justice of the peace; his second term in that office expired before he was discharged. Returning to his farm, he was elected to the offices of assessor, auditor, and school director, serving in the last named capacity for three years. **Mr. Raffensperger's** life has been one of constant activity, and full of varied experiences, recollections of usefulness which are calculated to add much to the enjoyment of his present life.

John Raffensperger was married May 9, 1848, to **Mary**, daughter of **Jacob Shoemaker**, and had children: **Ezra Alvin**, died March 31, 1851, aged two years, one month and eleven days; **Annie C.**, died July 4, 1852, aged one year, two months; and **Franklin P.**, died in October, 1853, when two years old. **Mrs. Mary Raffensperger**, who was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church, died December 4, 1852, at the age of twenty-eight.

Mr. Raffensperger was married again, May 25, 1853, to **Margaret**, daughter of **Andrew** and **Sarah (Messemer) McAfee**. They had four children, of whom two are living, **Mary K. (Mrs. J. H. Morgan)**, resides in Illinois; and **David W.**, married to **Olive P. Mogel**, **Thomas J.** and **Jacob**, twins, died, the former in his nineteenth year, in 1872, the latter in infancy. **Mrs. Margaret Raffensperger** died May 30, 1859, aged twenty-nine years.

Mr. Raffensperger was married September 15, 1861, to **Anna Catherine**, daughter of **David** and **Catherine (Bailer) Fry**. Three of their children are deceased: **Clara**, who died March 17, 1869, aged four years, eight months and six days; **Levi** and **Frank**, twins, died in infancy. The surviving members of the family are: **E. Ellsworth**; **Maggie J. (Mrs. Ervin Fryfield)**; **Andrew G. C**; **William E.**; **Charles I.**; **Hayes B.**; **Cora A.**; and **Minnie E.** **Mrs. Raffensperger** is a member of the Evangelical Church.

David Fry, **Mrs. Raffensperger's** father, is a farmer, and a native of Adams County. Pa. His family were among the earliest settlers of central Pennsylvania. His wife, **Catharine Bailer**, was born in Cumberland County. Their children are: **Ellen (Mrs. Nicholas Bitner)**, deceased; **Annabella**, deceased; **Jane (Mrs. Aaron Woods)**, deceased; **Samuel**, deceased; **John**; **Catherine (Mrs. Raffensperger)**; **Wesley**; **Andrew**; **Mary (Mrs. Henry Sunday)**. **Mrs. Fry** died in the prime of life, at the age of forty-four; her husband died in 1885, aged about sixty.