

A History of the Juniata Valley and its People under the Editorial Supervision of John W. Jordan, LL.D.; Librarian of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Illustrated; New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company; 1913; Volume II

This family came to Pennsylvania from Germany, and in early records the name is written in the German style, **Rees**. It was soon anglicized and became **Rice**. The founder of the family, **Zachariah** (also written **Zachary**) **Rice**, was one of the thirty thousand German emigrants who landed in Philadelphia between the years 1727 and 1776. He was born in Germany in 1731, and in his native land learned the trade of millwright. He came to Philadelphia in the ship "Edinborough" and at once took the oath of allegiance to the King of England. His first work of importance was to build a mill for the separating of clover seed. The machinery has disappeared, but the mill, built on Pickering Creek, near Pikeland Station, Chester County, is still standing.

In 1757 he married **Maria Appolonia** (afterward called **Abigail** to shorten the name) **Hartman**, daughter of **Johannes** and **Margaret Hartman**, German emigrants, who came in 1750. She was born September 4, 1742, in Germany, died November 6, 1789, the mother of twenty-one children, seventeen of whom walked in procession to her grave. Her grave at Pikeland Church is lost, the stone having been destroyed. The young couple began housekeeping on a farm in Pikeland Township, where in addition to farming he worked at his millwright trade and at carpentering. During the revolution he worked on the government hospital, built at Yellow Springs, in Pikeland, for the sick and wounded soldiers, and also did other work for the government. He prospered and purchased the farm of two hundred and five acres on which he lived. In May, 1786, he purchased one hundred and ten acres additional. He built in 1767 a stone house and there his children were born. They attended St. Augustine's Lutheran Church at the Trappe, thirteen miles away, until 1771, when St. Peter's Church, a log church edifice, was built at Pikeland.

During the revolution the hospital at Yellow Springs was filled with wounded soldiers, to whom **Mrs. Rice** was a frequent visitor, carrying food and delicacies. During these visits she contracted typhus fever, from which she never fully recovered. After the battle of Brandywine, it is said Washington, retreating across Chester Valley, stopped at the **Rice** home, receiving from the hands of **Mrs. Rice** a cooling, refreshing drink. Here they lived in peace and prosperity until the spring of 1789, when his farm was seized by the foreclosure of an old English mortgage. **Zachary Rice** and one hundred and thirteen other farmers lost their entire property, through the rascality of **Andrew Allen**, a Philadelphia merchant and a member of the Continental congress, who mortgaged the tract and divided it into two and three hundred acre farms, which he sold to the German emigrants, as they arrived, and who trusted him so entirely that they did not question his title. **Zachary** not being able to redeem his property, it was sold and immediate possession taken. A few months later his wife died and the old emigrant's cup of sorrow was full. But he was made of stern material, and in 1790, with his seventeen children, five of whom were married, he started westward in search of cheaper land. They crossed the Susquehanna at Harrisburg and settled in Milford Township, now Juniata County. They had brought their household goods with them in wagons and soon obtained land, built log houses and began clearing. The Indians, had all disappeared, their foes being the wild beasts. **Zachary** bought the tract upon which he settled in 1800 and paid for it in 1801, five thousand dollars, the result of his farming, lumbering and mill building operations, in which he was assisted by his unmarried

children. He cut and drew to the site the first log used in the erection of Lebanon Church, built at Loysville, Perry County, in 1794, and continued at hard labor until a few years before his death, then spending his time traveling around among his children, settled in Juniata, Perry and Mifflin Counties. He died August 11, 1819, aged eighty years, and was buried at Church Hill, Juniata County, Pennsylvania. He was the grandfather of one hundred and forty-seven children, and the great-great-grandfather of eight thousand and thirty-six **Rice** descendants. His son, **John Rice**, was appointed administrator, and on January 1, 1803, **Jacob Rice** bought the farm, paying five thousand and seventy-six dollars therefore. The administrator's accounts, dated November 3, 1812, show heirs: **John, Peter, Jacob, George Conrad, Zachariah, Henry, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Margaret, Susannah, Mariah, Mary, Sally, Kitty, Betsey and Polly**, the seventeen living children. The family were noted for their longevity, eighty and ninety years being the usual age. All were men of athletic build, hard workers and good citizens. From this old German "patriarch" sprang **Jacob Rice**, grandfather of **Charles Miller Rice**, of Lewistown.

(III) **Jacob (2)**, a grandson of **Zachariah and Abigail (Hartman) Rice**, was born in Perry County, probably a son of **Jacob (1) Rice**, who settled first in Juniata County, later in Spring Township, Perry County, and left sons, **Jacob (2)** and **Henry**. **Jacob (2) Rice** was a farmer. He married a **Miss Hammaker** and had eleven children.

(IV) **Frank**, son of **Jacob (2) Rice**, was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania, in 1846. He grew to manhood in Perry County, learned the carriage building trade, married, and moved to the state of Indiana, where he remained three years. He then returned to Pennsylvania, locating in Lewistown, where he followed his trade until 1912. He then joined his son in the management of the Juniata Poultry Farm, in which business he is now successfully engaged. He specializes in the raising of White Leghorn, White Orpington and White Rock chickens, and White Holland turkeys, and has a plant rapidly increasing in value. He is a veteran of the civil war, having served with the Two Hundred and Fifth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He was engaged in many of the hard battles fought by the Army of the Potomac, including the Seven Days' fighting before Richmond, Antietam, Petersburg. He is a Republican in politics, a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church. He married **Isabel Miller**, born in Mifflin County in 1847, daughter of **Christian Miller**, who was born in Saxony, Germany, came to the United States about 1840 with his wife and settled in Lewistown, Pennsylvania. He drove a stage coach over the mountains in the early days, later was manager of the Pennsylvania railroad station in Lewistown, continuing until 1876, when he purchased a farm three miles from the town on which he lived until death. His children were: **William** and **Charles**, both deceased, and **Mabel**, wife of **Frank Rice**. Children of **Frank Rice**: 1. **Annie E.**, married **G. A. Shiveley** and resides at Altoona, Pennsylvania; children: **Frank, Isabel and Dorothy**. 2. **William M.**, married **Emma Cherry** and resides in Altoona; children: **Charles and Austin**. 3. **Charles Miller**, of whom further.

(V) **Charles Miller**, youngest son of **Frank and Isabel (Miller) Rice**, was born in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, September 23, 1873. He was educated in the public school and later took a special course at East man's Business College, Poughkeepsie, New York. In 1889 he entered the employ of **David Grove**, a grocer of Lewistown, as clerk, and continued in his employ until 1902, when he was admitted to a partnership, the firm becoming **Grove & Rice**. They are located at No. 16 East Market Street, and have a well-stocked store and a prosperous business. He is also

interested in Lewistown real estate and with his father in the poultry business. He is a member of the Patriotic Order Sons of America and the Royal Arcanum; is a Republican in politics and, with his wife, belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

He married, in 1903, **Carolyn Hughes**, born in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, daughter of **Joseph W. Hughes**. She came to Lewistown with her parents when she was a babe. Children: **Carolyn**, born February 25, 1905; **Marjorie**. August 24, 1911.

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