

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 name, originally **Reiden**, was brought to Pennsylvania from Germany by three brothers, who came before the revolutionary war, in which they served. They first settled in New York state, later moving to York, Pennsylvania, where descendants yet reside. The spelling of the name has changed to **Riden**, but earlier generations retained the German spelling, **Reiden**. The early records of the borough of Newport, Perry County, Pennsylvania, show that on the second of April, 1789, **David (2) English** sold to **Paul Reiden** one hundred and ninety-nine acres of land, which English had bought from his father, **David (1) English**, the original grant dated February 8, 1775, having been made to the latter. By will, dated August 6, 1804, **Paul Reiden** gave the same tract to his sons: **Paul (2), John, Daniel, Abraham and Ephraim, Paul, John and Daniel**, after coming into possession of the paternal estate, first laid out and surveyed the town, now Newport, into fifty- four lots, with streets and alleys. The part laid out was south along the Juniata River and Little Buffalo Creek; the north part the heirs retained. The settlement was called **Reidenville** until the formation of Perry County in 1820. A ferry across the river was established, which was known as **Reiden's Ferry**, and in the war of 1812 was used by the American troops to cross the river. This ferry was in use until supplanted by the bridge built by the **Reiden's Ferry Bridge Company**, incorporated April 4, 1838. The **Reiden** brothers owned a mill and engaged in boating on the Juniata, transporting farm produce and freight for the merchants. After several years they dissolved their partnership and divided their property. **Paul (1) Reiden** married a **Miss Closser**, and, besides the five sons mentioned, had four daughters.

(II) **John Riden**, son of **Paul (1) Reiden**, was born about 1808. He engaged with his brothers in founding the town of Newport, Pennsylvania, and in their agricultural and boating enterprises until the dissolution of partnership. He then continued in business alone, principally agricultural. He married **Hester Mitchell**, and both died in Mifflin County, leaving issue.

(III) **John (2)**, son of **John (1)** and **Hester (Mitchell) Riden**, was born in Dry Valley, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, about 1830. He was a miller by trade, and operated at different points in Mifflin County, including Milroy. He was an active Democrat, and a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church. He married **Frances Camp**, a descendant of **John (1) Camp**, born in France, came to America in 1828, landing in New York, finally settling in the west end of the Kishacoquillas Valley, remaining six years, then moved to Milroy, where he died September 18, 1854. **Frances Camp** was born at Erie, Pennsylvania. Children: **Annie**, deceased; **Alvaretta**, deceased; **Margaret**, deceased; **Sidney**, deceased; **Robert J.**, of whom further; **George B. McClellan; Harry; Fannie; William J.**, deceased.

(IV) **Robert J.**, son of **John (2)** and **Frances (Camp) Riden**, was born in Milroy, Pennsylvania, May 24, 1860. He was educated in the public schools and on arriving at manhood engaged in the butcher business. In 1893 he came to Reedsville, where he established a meat market. This he conducted very successfully until 1911, when it was merged with his department store business. In 1909 **Mr. Riden** built what is said to be the largest frame store building in the state. It is one hundred by fifty feet on the ground, three stories in height. The third floor is occupied by lodges

and societies, the second floor as an opera house, and the first floor by **Mr. Riden's** department store. He is well established in business, and is one of the prosperous men of his town. He is a Democrat in politics and has served as school director. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, Milroy Lodge, No. 213, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Reedsville Eyrie, Fraternal Order of Eagles.

He married, in 1883, **Ella**, born in Reedsville, daughter of **Joseph Kelly**. Children: **Beatrice, Joseph, Frances, Mildred**.

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