

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

Paul F. Rider, blacksmith, Newport, Perry County, Pa., son of **Paul** and **Dorothy (Frank) Rider**, was born in Oliver Township, Perry County, in 1832. A history of his ancestors is given in connection with the sketch of **Mr. O. H. P. Rider**. His education was such as could be secured in the subscription and public schools of the neighborhood, which he attended during his early boyhood; but his school days were somewhat shortened by his desire to be engaged in the active work of life. In early youth he displayed the energy, industry and close application, which in their fuller development soon made him a prosperous business man. His first employment was on his father's farm, but finding himself endowed with a native liking for mechanical work, he learned later the trade of blacksmith. When the work of building the Pennsylvania Railroad was begun, he joined the ranks of the workmen engaged in that grand public improvement, and was found sometimes among those doing the excavating and grading, and sometimes among the mechanics employed in the various branches of the work. Finally, in 1853, he was gratified by obtaining ample scope for the exercise of his mechanical tastes and faculties in a situation in the blacksmith shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Altoona, Pa., where he was constantly employed during the next six years. Here his skill and energy as a mechanic and his excellent qualities as a man, secured for him the abiding confidence and respect of his employers. At the end of six years, **Mr. Rider** was transferred to a situation in the company's shops at Allegheny City, Pa., where he maintained and increased his reputation as an able, skillful and reliable workman. He has held the position of foreman blacksmith for the past twenty-three years in the Pennsylvania Railroad shops.

Paul F. Rider was married in March, 1859, to **Miss Matilda Grove**, who was born in Blair County, Pa.; their children are: **Otis; Dorothea; Vesta; Luzetta; Margaret; Jeannette;** and **William**. **Mrs. Matilda Rider** died in August, 1878, and **Mr. Rider** was married the second time to **Mrs. W. H. Troup**, of Newport, Pa., in 1881. The children of this marriage are: **George;** and **F. T.**

In his political views **Mr. Rider** is a decided Populist, and a firm believer in free silver. He was once a candidate on the Greenback ticket for State Senator, but failed of election. The "Golden Rule" is the law by which he earnestly strives to regulate his life, but he is not connected with any church. In personal appearance, **Mr. Rider** is tall, fine-looking, with clear cut features; he wears a full gray beard, and has an air of intelligence and refinement.

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