

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

**Israel E. Shaeffer**, farmer, Millerstown, Perry County, Pa. His grandfather, **John Shaeffer**, was born in Snyder County, then Union County, Pa. He was a day laborer and died comparatively a young man. He married **Mary Doobs**, who was born at Middletown, Dauphin County, Pa., and when a young girl removed with her parents to Snyder County. Their family consisted of five daughters and two sons. Their daughters are: **Mrs. Simon Hill**, Snyder County, Pa.; **Mrs. John Newman**, died in Snyder County, Pa.; **Mrs. John Moyer**, died in Snyder County, Pa.; **Mrs. Samuel Catterman**, emigrated to Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Ind.; **Mrs. Sarah Gambay**, died near McKees, Snyder County, Pa.; **Mrs. Jacob Geistwhite**, died at McKees, Snyder County, Pa. Their sons are: **George**, settled near McKees, Snyder County, and died there; and **John. John Shaeffer** (2), father of **Israel Shaeffer**, was born near McKees, Snyder County, Pa., in 1819, and had the misfortune to lose his father when quite young. Being the eldest of the children, much of the care of the family fell upon him. He early went out from home to make his own way and assist in the support of the family. In those days, when so much clearing was to be done, even very young boys could make themselves useful at such jobs as picking and burning brush. At the age of seven years, he found employment with **Mr. Shetterly**, of Snyder County, and at first worked for his board; but **Mr. Shetterly** soon saw that he was an industrious and energetic boy, and was quite willing to pay him wages, which he turned over to his mother. He was ingenious as well as industrious. In order to make the soil slide off of the wooden mould board of the plow more freely, he tacked the skin of an animal over it. All farming implements were of a primitive character in those early days. First sleds were used for hauling the grain to the barn. Next the ends of large logs were sawed off, out of which wheels were made for the primitive wagon, and finally, the modern wheel made with spoke and hub and felloe made its appearance. **Mr. Shaeffer** used the first cast metal plow brought to that part of the country. The grain was transported in bags on the backs of horses to the mill near Duncannon to be ground.

On account of the care of the family being thrown upon him, **Mr. Shaeffer** was able to attend school only seven weeks, in which time he learned to read and write, and acquired a little arithmetic. He remained with **Mr. Shetterly** until he was fifteen years old, and then went to Dauphin County, Pa., where he found employment on the construction of the Wiconisco Canal. While engaged at one place in working in a tunnel a body of earth fell upon him, breaking one leg in three places, and the other in two places, and also breaking one finger; these injuries disabled him for one year. After his recovery, he came to Perry County, Pa., and was employed by **Jacob Kline**, in a distillery near Liverpool, where for about three years he was engaged in driving a team. After this, he returned to Snyder County, Pa., and learned coopering with his brother-in-law, **Mr. Newman**, near McKees, Pa. After learning his trade he worked with **Mr. Newman** a number of years, under the arrangement that he was to make two barrels per day, that being considered a fair day's work with the crude materials then employed. This arrangement continued until about 1840, when **Mr. Shaeffer** removed to Fremont, Pa., and married **Sophia Garman**, a native of that place, and a daughter of **John Garman**, a farmer and distiller. Here he remained and did the cooper work for his father-in-law's distillery, and later operated a distillery himself. His next removal was to a point three miles south, where he bought a little land along the Mahantongo Creek, near Shadells Mill, which he later sold, and went to farming for **Judge**

**Leight** for two years, after which he cultivated the farm of **Michael Shetterly** for three years and then farmed for **Judge Weiser** three years more. At this time, his wife inherited a little money from her father's estate, with which they bought a tract of land, mostly covered with timber, in Susquehanna Township, Juniata County, Pa., which he and his sons cleared and brought into tillable condition. Here **Mr. Shaeffer** was engaged in farming until his death, which occurred very suddenly April 2, 1882. On the morning of this day he rose full of life and in the best of spirits. After breakfast, he went to the woodpile and taking up the axe to chop, had made but two strokes when he fell to the ground, and expired in a few minutes. **Mr. Shaeffer** was a member of the Lutheran Church. He voted with the Democratic Party. His wife remained a widow a few years and then married **Perry Hare**, of Snyder County; they now reside on the farm in Juniata County, Pa. When the children were young, their mother made all their clothes, spinning and weaving her materials. She made each child one suit each year. The suit for the first year was kept for Sunday wear and for all dress occasions, and for the second year it became the everyday and working suit. The mother still survives and enjoys perfect health. The children of **Mr. and Mrs. Shaeffer** are: one that died young, unnamed; **Israel E.**; **Edward G.**, married **Miss Malinda Weiser**, and resides in Oriental, Juniata County, Pa.; **Percival**, married **Angeline Heckart**, of Dauphin County, Pa., resides on a farm in Juniata County, Pa.; **Johnny** (so he was christened), died aged seventeen years; **Mary Ann**, died aged five years; **Barbara Ann** (**Mrs. Aaron Karstetter**), of Juniata County, Pa.; **Susan** (**Mrs. Charles Fritz**), of Akron, O.; **Sarah Ann** (**Mrs. Absalom Barnet**), resides near Oriental, Pa.; and **Annie Sophia** (**Mrs. Houghenbrought**), resides in Lykens Valley, Dauphin County, Pa.

**Israel E. Shaeffer** was born on the old homestead of his grandfather, near Fremont, Snyder County, Pa., July 11, 1843. His first attendance at school was at Shadells Mill, and his first teacher was **Nathan Ferry**, afterwards sheriff of Snyder County. When about thirteen years old, **Mr. Shaeffer** came with his parents to Juniata County, where he completed his education in Susquehanna Township, and attended Marklesville Academy for one term. At the age of eighteen, he began teaching school, and taught each succeeding winter until 1863. In August, 1864, he enlisted at Carlisle, Pa., in Company A, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, for one year. At Griswold Station he was captured, and was taken to Savannah, Ga., thence to Charleston, S. C., and thence to Florence, S. C., where he lay in a rebel prison ninety-seven days, when General Schofield came, and he was released on parole. He was almost a complete wreck, being unable to walk, and had to be carried, because he had been almost starved, had been exposed to all kinds of weather, and had his feet frozen. He was sent to Camp Parole at Annapolis, Md., and thence sent home for thirty days, after which he returned to Camp Parole; after being there two days, he volunteered as a nurse, and was sent to Annapolis for thirty days, when the order came to rejoin his regiment. He proceeded to Washington, D. C.; thence to Beaufort, N. C.; thence to Raleigh, N. C., and thence to Lexington, where he was discharged on account of the close of the war. After his discharge he was sent to Roanoke Island, where he was paid off, and sent to Fortress Monroe, thence to Baltimore, thence to Harrisburg, Pa., and thence to his home. That summer he worked for **Mr. Kauffman** at harvesting.

On November 2, 1865, **Israel E. Shaeffer** was married to **Miss Maria A. Criley**, born in Thompsettown, Pa., August 30, 1842, daughter of **John** and **Mary Ann Williams**, both of Chester County, Pa., and the latter a member of the Society of Friends. After his marriage, **Mr. Shaeffer** was engaged in farming by the year, and in the winter season taught school. In 1867,

he bought his present place of 120 acres and here made his home. His house was built by the former owner, **Henry Witt**. Marked improvements have been made by **Mr. Shaeffer** since he occupied the place. **Mr. Shaeffer** has taught school ten terms in Perry County, and three in Juniata County, for which the lowest salary received by him was eleven dollars per month, and the highest thirty-five dollars per month. He is prominent in connection with the Republican Party, and has served as township auditor for twelve years. At nineteen years of age, **Mr. Shaeffer** united with the Methodist Church on the Newport circuit, and has since taken an active interest in church and Sunday-school affairs, having filled almost all official positions in the organization. On principle, he is strongly opposed to the use of intoxicating drinks, is strictly an abstainer, and does not use tobacco in any form. His children are: **John Wesley**, died aged five years; **Mary S. (Mrs. Edward Derickson)**, of Farmer City, Ill.; **George Edward**, died aged ten years; **Israel Morris**, died in infancy; **Henry Milton**, born December 1, 1873, has always lived at home, with the exception of two years when he was a nurse at the Harrisburg Asylum; **Jay Emerson**, born September 17, 1875, farmer at Fanner City, Ill.; **Alma Orissa**, born July 16, 1878, at home; **Chester L.**, born April 9, 1882, attending school; and **Edgar Grant**, born August 2, 1884, attending school.

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