

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

**George Shrom**, Newport, Perry County, Pa., son of **Joseph** and **Rebecca (Kenower) Shrom**, was born in Carlisle, Pa., February 4, 1841. His ancestry can be traced back no further than to his great-grandfather, who came with his wife from Germany. **Mr. Shrom's** grandfather, **Joseph Shrom, Sr.**, settled in Carlisle, Pa., where he carried on the business of a tanner and currier. He was married May 31, 1766, to **Barbara Ann Uhler**. They died only four days apart, **Joseph Shrom** September 14, 1838, at the age of seventy six years, and his wife September 18, 1838, aged seventy-two. They had thirteen children, one of whom, **Joseph Shrom, Jr.**, was born June 8, 1792, and died March 2, 1865, at the age of seventy-three. He was twice married, the first time to **Mrs. Ann Fleming Randolph**, the second time to **Rebecca Kenower**. Like his father, he followed the vocation of a tanner and currier in Carlisle, residing in the house in which he was born, throughout his life, except when, for about six weeks, he worked as a journeyman at his trade, in Baltimore, Md. He served as a private soldier in the war of 1812, and besides his pay, received as a pension two land warrants for 80 and 160 acres respectively of government land.

**George Shrom** is the seventeenth child, the tenth of his father's second marriage. In his fifth year, he met with an accident that deprived him of the sight of his right eye; it was a gun-shot wound, the weapon being in the hands of a boy about twelve years old, named **Benjamin Spicer**. The little sufferer was carried from the tan-yard, where the shooting occurred, to his home at the other end of the lot, by a neighbor named **Timothy Sullivan**, and was laid on a table. Doctors were summoned, but all shook their heads, pronouncing the case hopeless. But an old army officer, **Maj. Edward Armor**, asked permission to take care of the supposed dead boy. After cleaning the blood and dirt from the face and the wound, and applying restoratives, the child began to breathe visibly, and the doctors returned to render aid. For seven weeks the little lad was totally blind, and it was feared that he would remain so. But by tender nursing, he was rapidly restored to strength. When only a little more than five years old, he entered the public schools of Carlisle, and passed from one grade to another until he reached the high school. But he was obliged to relinquish his studies before graduating, to enter the office of the Carlisle American, a "Knownothing" paper published by **George Zinn**, to learn the art of printing. After serving four years' faithful apprenticeship, he started out in the world to make his own way. He worked as a journeyman printer in Carlisle, Pittsburg, Greensburg, Johnstown, Philadelphia, Uniontown, Harrisburg and other places, until the winter of 1869, when he purchased the office of the Newport News, which paper had been suspended. He placed it upon a sound footing, and published it successfully until June 1874, when he sold the office to **W. H. Minick**, who in turn sold it to **H. B. Zimmerman & Son**, who conducted the paper for about two years. The business of the office declining, the **Zimmermans** sold the plant to **James H. Ferguson** and **Frank A. Fry**, the latter of whom is still the editor and publisher. **George Shrom** proposed moving to Iowa, but his family refused to accompany him thither, which obliged him to try his luck at job printing, and he established a small plant in Newport in the fall of 1874. In May, 1875, **Mr. Shrom** established the Millerstown Ledger, in Millerstown, five miles west of Newport. After a year and a half, he removed the plant to Newport, and changed the name of his paper to the **Newport Ledger**, while he has not realized a fortune, he has made a comfortable living for his family, and is in easy circumstances.

**George Shrom's** marital ventures were two. He was first married in Newport, February 2, 1865, to **Miss N. Ellen Singer**, who died July 20, 1889, shortly after the great flood that will be an historical landmark for generations to come. They had seven children, **three** of whom died in infancy; those living are: **Lorena S.**; **George Elmer**, of Altoona, Pa.; **Harry Kenower**; and **Nellie R.**, at home. The second marriage was with **Mary R. Jones**, of Dover, Del.; of this marriage there is no issue.

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