

History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, By H. H. Hain, Harrisburg, Pa., 1922 - Hain-Moore Company, Publishers, Harrisburg, Pa.

**William Colhozeh Shuman** was a Perry County lad from very early years, although born in Lancaster County in 1836. Orphaned in his first year, the youngest of fifteen children, he was reared among his kin here. In 1852, while a **Miss Minnie Owen**, of Croton Falls, New York—who later was married to **Dr. David Fetter**, of Landisburg—was conducting a select school in Ickesburg, she boarded with his people, and he thus got his first lessons in grammar—private lessons, as it was not then taught in the public schools. Securing a position in Auburn, New York, in a printing office, he worked there a year, but returned to Ickesburg and spent a year at Academia Academy (Juniata County), of which Prof. John H. Shumaker, of Perry County, was then principal. In 1856 he began teaching. He attended the academy of Rev. John B. Strain one term. In 1859 he attended Millersville, but again taught in Perry for several years. In 1862 he married **Rebecca Fertig**, of Millerstown, and then taught in Lancaster for several terms. In 1878 he removed to Chicago, where he taught in the Cook County Normal School five years, was principal of the Chicago grammar school for five years, and in charge of the evening schools for several years. While **Prof. Shuman's** name will ever stand high in the educational world, yet his successful compilation of the Genealogy of the **George Shuman Family**, a volume of over three hundred large pages, will ever stand as a monument to the energy and persistency with which he pursued that task for a period of twenty years during the declining years of an active life, after relinquishing school work. It is of this famous family that came **Lieutenant Governor Shuman**, of Illinois, but he was born and reared in Lancaster County. From it also came the names of **Shuman's Mill**, **Shuman's Church**, etc. Following a slight stroke he slept peacefully away, July 7, 1917.

**Prof. and Mrs. Shuman** were the parents of five children: **Edwin L.**, a noted literary writer; **Roy R.**, expert advertising man; **Jesse J.**, engineering expert on steel; **Lucy Estelle (Mrs. Chester B. Masslich)**, and **Grace Ethel (Mrs. John Ernest Smiley)**. All are graduates of Northwestern University of Chicago.

**Mrs. Shuman**, nee **Rebecca C. Fertig**, of Millerstown, at the request of **Miss Frances E. Willard**, in 1890, undertook the mounting of the World's Polyglot Petition, a document which was to make a strong appeal to the governments of the world to abolish the manufacture of opium and alcohol. **Miss Willard's** "Around the World" workers had solicited signers of this petition in every country in the world and the islands of the sea. The names came in great rolls—sometimes in sheets, sometimes singly—and were mounted on canvass half a yard wide. Counting three names to the inch the petition was eight miles in length; but including the six millions attestations from societies of various organizations, the entire length of the petition would have been forty miles. **Mrs. Shuman** was educated in the Millerstown schools and in the select school of S. H. Galbraith at Blain.

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