

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

**Wilson Smiley**, Shermansdale, Perry County, Pa., was born at the old homestead in Carroll Township. Perry County, March 17, 1820. He is a son of **William** and **Ann (Wilson) Smiley**. His grandfather, **John Smiley**, was one of the early settlers of Perry County, at the time when Indians were numerous in the county. He married **Miss Mehaffie** and brought her to the farm on which they spent their lives. They had seven children: **Elizabeth (Mrs. Benjamin McCord)**; **Ruth (Mrs. Jesse Kirkpatrick)**; **Sarah (Mrs. William Smith)**; **Nancy (Mrs. John McKenzie)**; **Martha**; **William**; and **John**. **Mr. John Smiley** and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church. He died at the advanced age of ninety-seven; his wife died very suddenly. **Mr. Smiley's** maternal grandfather, **Mr. James Wilson**, a native of Lancaster County, Pa., learned tailoring and worked at his trade all his life. He owned and resided upon a farm in Cumberland County, Pa. He was married to **Jane Ramsey**, of Lancaster County, Pa. Their children are: **Mary (Mrs. Partington)**; **Ann (Mrs. William Smiley)**; and **Eliza (Mrs. John Davidson)**. **Mr. Wilson** was a member of the Society of Friends, and his wife a member of the Presbyterian Church. He died aged eighty; his wife died in 1831. **Wilson Smiley's** father, **William Smiley**, was a native of Perry County, and a farmer; he married **Miss Anna Wilson**, of Cumberland County. They had seven children: **Wilson**; **John**; **Jane**, widow of **Joseph McCaskey**, who died in the army; **Margaret (Mrs. John Henderson)**; **William**; **Benjamin**; and **Rev. James**, died aged sixty-nine years. **Mr. William Smiley** and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church, in which he held various offices. He died at the aged of eighty-one; his wife died aged seventy-five.

**Wilson Smiley** was educated in the public schools of Perry County. He remained at home, working with his father on the farm until he was eighteen. After serving a two years' apprenticeship at New Bloomfield, Pa., with **Mr. John McBride**, blacksmith, he worked at his trade for two years in Cumberland County, and in 1843, returned to his home and began business for himself, in a forge which his father had built for him in Shermansdale. **Mr. Smiley** devoted his whole attention to his business. His industry and enterprise have made him financially successful, and have won for him the respect and confidence of the community. In connection with his forge, he is now the owner of a foundry in Shermansdale and a farm, part of the original Smiley tract. He is actively interested in the affairs of the township and has served as inspector of elections.

**Wilson Smiley** was married, October 28, 1849, to **Margaret**, daughter of **James** and **Martha (Smiley) Smiley**. Their children are; **Jane S. (Mrs. James A. White)**; **Martha**, deceased; and **James**, deceased. **Mrs. Wilson Smiley** died in 1857, aged thirty-eight. **Mr. Wilson Smiley's** second wife was **Sarah**, daughter of **Hodgen** and **Nancy (White) Henderson**. They have six children: **Annie (Mrs. Peter Kell)**; **Emma**, a missionary in India since 1894; **Alexander**; **Elizabeth (Mrs. John Souders)**; **Ellen (Mrs. Charles Murphy)**, her husband is a prominent lawyer in Philippi, W. Va.; and **John**. **Mr. Wilson Smiley** is a member of the Presbyterian Church in which he was for many years a deacon, and is at present an elder and trustee. He is also connected with the Sunday-school and the Society of Christian Endeavor. **Mr. Wilson Smiley** is kindhearted and benevolent, and a liberal supporter of all church enterprises.