

Biographical Annals of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania; Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens and of Many of The Early Settled Families. Illustrated. Chicago: The Genealogical Publishing Co., 1905.

Ephraim Steele, the fourth son and youngest child of **Ephraim** and **Esther (Smith) Steele**, was born Nov. 13, 1795. He grew to manhood in Carlisle and became a watchmaker and jeweler. After completing his trade he spent a number of years in visiting other towns to learn of their prospects and desirability as business places. In 1817 he was for a brief time in Milton, Northumberland County. Soon after Perry County was formed, and while Landisburg had hopes of becoming the county seat, he opened up a shop in that place, but another point became the county seat and Landisburg's prospects for a business point were blasted. He next tried Berlin, Adams County, where he remained longer than anywhere else. In 1840 he came back to Carlisle and there embarked upon a successful business career which lasted the rest of his lifetime. His store for a long while was on the east side of South Hanover Street, half way between the public square and Pomfret Street. In 1863 he removed his residence to the corner of Hanover and Pomfret Streets, and his business place next door on Hanover. He died April 12, 1868 and the surviving members of his family ever since have continued to live where he last had his home; for more than forty years it has been known as the "**Steele Corner**."

In May, 1831, while living at Berlin, **Ephraim Steele** married **Miss Ann Underwood**, a daughter of **John** and **Sarah (Morrison) Underwood**. The **Underwoods** were also of Scotch-Irish nationality. **John Underwood** was born in County Antrim, Ireland, Oct. 14, 1739, and came to America in 1775, settling in Lancaster County, Pa. When he came, the war for independence was already in progress and he was soon found in the ranks of the patriots, battling for American liberty on March 15, 1776, he was commissioned an ensign in the 5th Battalion of the Lancaster County Associators, and afterward he became a captain in the Continental Army. About the year 1786 he removed to the banks of the Yellow Breeches Creek, in Allen Township, Cumberland County, where he lived for two years, after which he located in Carlisle and engaged in the mercantile business. He was twice married.

His first wife was **Janet McCord**, by whom he had several children, only one of whom a son named **William B.**, grew to maturity. His second wife was **Sarah Morrison**, who also was a native of County Antrim. By her he had six children, among whom was **Ann**, who became the wife of **Ephraim Steele**, the watchmaker. **John Underwood** died Sept. 1, 1827, his wife, **Sarah Morrison**, passing away **June 24, 1837**, and both are buried in the Old Graveyard at Carlisle.

Ephraim and **Ann (Underwood) Steele** had children as follows: **Sarah Esther**, born May 9, 1832, who died unmarried Aug. 31, 1872; **Mary Foulke**, born March 27, 1834, who died Sept. 22, 1873; **Margaret Ann**; **Joseph Underwood**; **John Ephraim**, who died in infancy; **Martha Jane**; **Morrison Underwood**, and **John Ephraim**.

Joseph Underwood Steele was born on Jan. 5, 1837, and like his father before him became a watchmaker and jeweler, engaging for some years in that business in his native town. On Jan. 5, 1860, he married **Sarah Jane Brown** of Carlisle, who bore him two children, named, respectively, **William** and **Joseph Underwood**. The former died in infancy, but the latter grew to manhood and settled in Baltimore, where he married **Florence Rice**, by whom he has one

child, **James Edgar Steele**, born Jan. 20, 1886. Moved by patriotic impulse **Joseph Underwood Steele**, in July, 1862, enlisted as a recruit in Company A. (Capt. James Colwell). 7th Pennsylvania Reserves (Col. R. M. Henderson). He joined his regiment at Harrison's Landing and immediately entered upon hard and dangerous service. On the evening of the 14th of the following September, near the close of the day, while charging up the rocky heights of South Mountain, he was shot dead, a rifle ball striking him in the center of the forehead and splashing his life's blood over the brave men at his side. Three of his blood-bespattered comrades bore his body to the rear and buried it temporarily near the foot of the mountain. It was afterward brought home and laid to rest in the Old Graveyard at Carlisle.

Morrison Underwood Steele, the third son, was born May 13, 1843. When he reached man's estate he went to Lancaster, Ohio, and there was long a salesman in a dry-goods store. In after years, while on a visit to his friends in Carlisle, he took sick and died July 21, 1878. During the Civil War he rendered his State service with the emergency troops.

John Ephraim Steele, the youngest child of the family, was born Oct. 13, 1845, several years after the death of the brother who had borne the same favorite family name. He also learned the watchmaker's trade, and his father dying about the time the boy was budding into manhood, he inherited his father's business and engaged at it throughout his lifetime. He never married, and died on June 1, 1898.

The only children of **Ephraim** and **Ann (Underwood) Steele** that remain are **Misses Margaret A.** and **Martha J. Steele**, residing in the well known **Steele** homestead, corner of South Hanover and Pomfret Streets. They have lived nearly of all their days in Carlisle, are known by its entire community, and universally loved and esteemed for their modest worth and kindly ways. They are faithful and prominent members of the First Presbyterian Church, whose edifice was built while **Rev. John Steele** of like name but not a known relative was a pastor of its congregation, and within the walls of which have worshipped all the different generations of this noted family since their first settlement in Carlisle.

www.theperryhistorians.org