

A History of the Juniata Valley and its People under the Editorial Supervision of John W. Jordan, M.D. Librarian of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., Volume II, Illustrated, New York, Lewis Historical- Publishing Company, 1913

The Sterrett Family

The first official record of the **Sterretts** in the Juniata Valley is of **Ralph Sterrett**, who took up one hundred and forty acres in Beale Township, Juniata County, July 27, 1762. He was an Indian trader and at home in the woods most anywhere. The run that crosses hereby was known as **Sterretts Run**. He came to the valley from Lancaster County and dealt in squatter claims. He sold the tract previously mentioned, March 25, 1764, his wife **Martha** joining with him in the sale.

(II) **William**, son of **Ralph** and **Martha Sterrett**, who is said to have been the first white child born west of the Tuscarora Mountains, was born at Bingham Fort. He was part owner of a forge on Licking Creek and once sheriff of Mifflin County. He married and had a son **William**.

(III) **William** (2), son of **William** (1) **Sterrett**, was born January 25, 1801, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His parents were for a time residents of Lancaster County, settling in Juniata County in 1807. **William** (2) **Sterrett** became a farmer, continuing in Juniata County until his death, January 25, 1889. He married, January 8, 1835, **Rachel Thompson**, born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, August 25, 1801, died several years before her husband. Children: **John Thompson**, born July 16, 1836; **James**, June 10, 1838; **William N.**, of whom further; **Robert**, February 14, 1842.

(IV) **William North**, third son of **William** and **Rachel (Thompson) Sterrett**, was born in Juniata County March 21, 1840, died January 22, 1912. He was educated in the public school and resided at the homestead farm, later owning a farm set off from the original **Sterrett** farm, a large tract located in Milford Township, Juniata County. He was a very successful farmer, continuing in active management of his own acres until 1905, when he retired and moved to Mifflintown, locating there on April 7th of that year. During eight years of his life he was engaged in mercantile business at Patterson, Pennsylvania, but continued his residence at the farm. He was a Republican in politics, served as county commissioner and associate judge of Juniata County, also filling many township offices. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife belonged to the Presbyterian Church. He was a man of upright character, energetic in business, but rendering to every man his just due. Quiet and unobtrusive, yet firm and decided in his opinions and convictions, he won the regard of his fellow men and left behind him an honored name.

He married. April 27, 1871, **Jane E. Black**, born in New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pennsylvania, February 16, 1845, daughter of **Thomas** and **Margaret (Zimmerman) Black**, born in Perry County, where **Thomas Black** died comparatively young. **Margaret**, his wife died in 1891, aged eighty-two years. Children of **William N.** and **Jane E. (Black) Sterrett**, all born at the farm in Juniata County:

1. **William E.**, born February 2, 1872; he was educated in Mifflintown high school and Pittsburgh Business College, and is now a clerk in the employ of the Pennsylvania railroad offices at Denholm.
2. **Samuel Thomas**, born August 16, 1875, educated in Mifflintown high school, now a farmer on the old home stead; he married **Norma Ernest** and has children: **Harold Earl**, **Samuel Glenn**, **James Fay**, **Anna Elizabeth**, and **Edgar Ernest**, twin of **Anna E.**
3. **James Thompson**, born September 17, 1884, educated in Mifflintown high school and Pierces' Business College, now assistant cashier of the Juniata Valley Bank; he married **Alma Robinson**.
4. **Edgar Black**, born June 26, 1888, educated in Port Royal high school and Bank's Business College of Philadelphia, now a bookkeeper in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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