

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

**Capt. William Stewart**, farmer and tobacco grower, Turbett Township, Juniata County, Pa., was born January 3, 1834, in that part of Turbett Township which is now Spruce Hill. He is a son of **John** and **Elizabeth (Stayner) Stewart**. **John Stewart**, of the Scotch-Irish race, was born in the north of Ireland. Coming to America, he settled in Juniata County, where he owned a small farm, which he greatly improved; also worked as a laborer for the farmers in the vicinity. He married **Elizabeth Stayner**, a native of Juniata County, who was the daughter of **Capt. Rodger Stayner**, a native of Scotland, who, coming to America before the Revolutionary war, took an active part in that struggle, being a captain in Washington's army. **Captain Stayner** located in Turbett Township, Juniata County, where he lived and died. To the marriage of **John Stewart** were born seven children, of whom **one** died in infancy. The others were: **Jane**, who died unmarried; **Martha**, unmarried, who is a resident of Chicago; **Elias S.**, of McVeytown; **William**, of Turbett Township; **Joseph**, deceased; and **Sarah (Mrs. William Umholtz)**, of Perry County. Both the parents of these children died in Turbett Township. In his political views, **John Stewart** was a Democrat.

**William Stewart** attended the public schools of Turbett and Spruce Hill Townships. He began his active life by laboring among the farmers of the vicinity. Losing his father at an early age, he continued to be thus employed until the age of seventeen, when he learned tanning in Turbett Township, at which he remained four years. He then worked in his native township until the outbreak of the Civil war opened up to him a glorious career in behalf of his native land. **Captain Stewart's** war record is replete with glory and honors. On February 10, 1863, he enlisted in Capt. Frederick Korte's Company M, of the One Hundred and Fifty-second of the Pennsylvania line, or Third Pennsylvania Volunteers, heavy artillery, Col. Joseph Roberts commanding. This regiment, during the latter part of the war, was stationed along Grant's Federal line between the cities of Richmond and Petersburg, Va., and played a conspicuous part in the siege of these strongholds of the Confederacy. **Mr. Stewart** was in the service over two years, during which time he never lost a single hour from duty. After the discharge from the army, he returned to Juniata County, locating where he now resides. He became a sawyer in steam-mills, working for eighteen years in the saw-mills of Juniata and Mifflin Counties, all the time for one employer. He finally discontinued on account of ill health, devoting his entire time to the farm, on which he has made the raising of fine tobacco a specialty, with most gratifying results.

He married in Mifflintown, Juniata County, in 1856, **Rhoda M. Stephens**, a native of Mifflin County, who was a daughter of **Jonathan Stephens**, a resident of that county. Of their eleven children, **three** died in infancy. The others are: **Thomas A.**, residing on the homestead farm; **Laura M. (Mrs. Robert Kerlin)**, of North Dakota; **Alice M. (Mrs. John Kerlin)**, of Altoona, Pa.; **William B.**, of Altoona; **Annie, (Mrs. Henry Fraker)**, of Fulton County; **Joshua**, an engineer on the North Western Railroad; **Gracie**; and **Juniata**, who died in early life. **Mr. Stewart** has acceptably filled various township offices, including overseer of the poor, judge of elections and auditor. He is at present high constable of the township. In politics he is a

Democrat. He is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is one of the trustees. He has been both a teacher and a superintendent in Sunday-school work.

The **Stayners** from whom **William Stewart** comes on the maternal side were a prominent Scotch family, of remarkable heroism. **Captain Stayner**, the maternal grandfather of **Mr. Stewart**, was confined to his bed by sickness, when the British army occupied Philadelphia. His wife, who was an English woman, surrendered her husband to Tory soldiers attached to the English army, who taking him out of his sick bed, incarcerated him in a loathsome dungeon. **Captain Stayner** never saw her after this deed of treachery. In the course of time, he was married again, his second wife being the grandmother of **William Stewart**.

[www.theperryhistorians.org](http://www.theperryhistorians.org)