

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

Hon. William R. Swartz, merchant, Penn Township, Perry County, Pa., was born September 14, 1840, in Watts Township, Perry County. He is a son of **George** and **Elizabeth (Fesler) Swartz**. On both sides his ancestry is of hardy German nationality. His father and mother were born in Cumberland County, but settled in Perry County at an early date, and there passed the remainder of their days, universally respected and esteemed for their many excellent qualities. **George Swartz** was a farmer. He died in 1872. His partner through the journey of life had preceded him in death, September 25, 1866, being then seventy-two years of age. **Mr. and Mrs. George Swartz** had eleven children, of whom five are known to survive at this date: **Amanda**, widow of the late **Joseph Steele**; **Susan (Mrs. John P. Steele)**; **Leonard**; **Elizabeth (Mrs. John W. Charles)**; and **William R.** With the exception of two years spent in mercantile pursuits in Harrisburg, the entire life of **Hon. William R. Swartz** has been passed in Perry County, in every part of which he is well known. He received his elementary education in the public schools of Watts Township; it was supplemented by a course in the Dickinson Seminary, Williamsport, Pa. After leaving school, he taught for one term in Watts Township, and was subsequently engaged for a time in clerical work in general stores at West Fairview, Cumberland County, and at Newport, Perry County. In 1863, **Mr. Swartz** began business for himself, and has since that time successfully conducted a general mercantile business, which has been built up into very large proportions by tact, industry and fair dealing. **Mr. Swartz** ranks today among the solid business men of Perry County. He has also, since July 1, 1885, represented the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, having had charge of their Johnstown office during three years of that time.

William R. Swartz was married, in New Buffalo, January 29, 1863, to **Ada P.**, daughter of **Jacob** and **Mary S. (Urban) Steel**; **Mr. Steel** is a native of Perry County, and **Mrs. Steel**, of Northumberland. The children of **Mr. and Mrs. Swartz** are: **John B.**, who died in infancy; **Stiles J.**, superintendent of agencies for five States for the Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company, of Philadelphia; **Mary E.**; **William K.**, a young man of much promise, now a student at Dickinson College; **Ada Josephine**; **Anna B.**; **Roberta E.** It is not to be supposed that a man of **Mr. Swartz's** well-known ability and uprightness would fail to attract the attention of his fellow citizens, and that they should wish to utilize his service for the public good. In 1888, he was sent to Harrisburg, to represent Perry County in the State legislature. So upright was his course, and so satisfactory to his constituents that he was re-elected in 1890. **Mr. Swartz** is a member of Adams Lodge, No. 319, F. and A. M., of New Bloomfield; also of Evergreen Lodge, No. 205, I. O. O. F., of Duncannon. He is a staunch supporter of the principles and policy of the Republican Party. He has been for many years a consistent and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is a licensed local preacher and the superintendent of the Sunday-school. His family are consistent members of the same church.

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