

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

John M. Telfer, Doyles Mills, Juniata County, Pa., was born in Fermanagh Township, Juniata County, February 22, 1858, son of **William** and **Mary (Milliken) Telfer**. **William Telfer** was a native of Scotland, and a woolen manufacturer. Emigrating at the age of nineteen to America, he landed at New York, and went to Lititz, Lancaster County, Pa., where his brother was manager of a woolen factory. Here he spent some time, and then went to Erie County, Pa., where he worked at his trade for one year. He was next associated with his brother, **Samuel Telfer**, for several years, in the manufacture of woolen goods at the old Port Royal mill, and afterwards with **Adam Spoonhour**, in the same business, near Oakland, Pa. After selling the mill he bought a farm in the Tuscarora Valley, where he settled, and became the first carpet manufacturer in that section. The later years of his life were passed in Spruce Hill Township, where he owned about 170 acres of land, eighty-seven of which were included in the farm on which he lived. He bought Doyle's mill, in Beale Township, with twenty-one acres of land, and spent \$2,000 in fitting up the mill for the manufacture of flour by the roller process. He also conducted a saw-mill. After having introduced many improvements, **Mr. Telfer** only once saw his mill running; he died suddenly from heart failure, in his carriage, near his home. **Mr. Telfer** was industrious and energetic, and enjoyed universal confidence and respect. His political views were Republican. **William Telfer** was married in Tuscarora Township to **Mary**, daughter of **Thomas Milliken**, of that Township. Their children are: **John M.**; **Samuel**, living on the homestead farm; **Jennie**; **William**, partner of **John M.**; and **Mary (Mrs. Charles McCahan)**, of Milford Township. **Mrs. William Telfer** now resides with her son **Samuel**. **Mr. Telfer** was a trustee of the Presbyterian Church.

John M. Telfer attended the public schools of Spruce Hill Township. After leaving school he learned weaving. At the age of twenty-seven he left home; for three years previous to this time he had worked at milling. Upon the death of their father, **John M. Telfer** and his brother, **William Telfer**, assumed the charge of the flour and saw-mills, in which occupation they have ever since been engaged, the firm being designated as **J. M. Telfer & Brother**, manufacturers of "White Foam" flour. Among the many improvements made in the mill is a new engine, which increased its capacity from fifteen barrels to thirty barrels of flour per day. In addition to this business **Mr. Telfer** is a manufacturer of lumber for home consumption, and cultivates a small farm. He is progressive and enterprising in his business management, and is also esteemed in social circles. As a member of the school board of the township, he actively promotes the interests of the schools.

John M. Telfer was married, December 22, 1887, to **Ida**, daughter of **Nathaniel Moyer**, of Beale Township. **Miss Moyer** was born in Perry County. Their children are: **William N. Caturah**; **James G.**; Lila, who died in infancy; and **one** unnamed. **Mr. Telfer** is a member of the Lower Tuscarora Presbyterian Church.

www.theperryhistorians.org