

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

G. Carey Tharp, justice of the peace, Liverpool, Perry County, Pa. The original manner of spelling the name was **Thorpe**. The ancestors of the family were Norman English; one of them was lord mayor of London, and another was chief justice of England. **John Tharp**, grandfather of **G. Carey Tharp**, was born in the town of Moville, near Londonderry, Ireland, and died in Ireland. He was a gentleman, and owned an estate. He was married and reared one child, **George**. **George Tharp**, father of **G. Carey**, was born in Ireland, and lost his father when a child. He inherited his father's estate, and embarked in the grocery business at Londonderry, where he married **Mary Carey**, daughter of **John** and **Rosetta Carey**, of Norman English ancestry. He emigrated to America with his wife in 1819, sailing from Londonderry and landing at Philadelphia, whence he proceeded to Liverpool, Perry County, and engaged in mercantile business, which he carried on until his death, in January, 1867. At one time he failed in business and was left without property and with a heavy indebtedness, but later he recovered, and paid all his debts. He was well known throughout the country and was universally regarded as a thoroughly upright and honest man. In Ireland, he was a member of the Episcopal Church, but after coming to America he affiliated with the Lutheran Church. His wife having died in 1854, he married **Mary Ann Grubb**; they had one **child**, who died in infancy. By his first wife he had **five** children, all of whom died in infancy. **Mr. G. Carey Tharp** is his child by adoption.

G. Carey Tharp was born at Mt. Patrick, Perry County, Pa., September 7, 1830, and was adopted by **Mr.** and **Mrs. Tharp** when he was three weeks old. His education was obtained in the public school, which he attended until he was thirteen years of age. At this age he was attacked by a nervous disease, on account of which he was withdrawn from school and placed under the treatment of Prof. McClellan, M. D., father of Gen. George B. McClellan, the late honored commander of the Army of the Potomac. But he was never able to resume his studies. From boyhood, he was a diligent reader of good books, and in this way practically became self-educated. His business training was secured in his father's store, in which he was employed as a clerk and on becoming of age, he was admitted to partnership with his father, and continued with him until within a year of his father's death. On October 21, 1865, **G. C. Tharp** purchased the business and conducted it alone at the original stand. In 1873, his store was burned and he suffered a heavy loss, but at once resumed business at another stand and continued in it alone until January, 1877, when he formed a partnership with his son, and the firm carried on business until 1882, when he sold the property to **John Shank**. **Mr. Tharp** is a strong Democrat, and has served in the office of justice of the peace for twenty-five years, having been elected to this office for five consecutive terms, and each time by an increased majority. In this responsible office, he has always given satisfaction by his impartiality and the justice of his decisions. He has also served many years as school director, and has frequently been elected to the town council; he was once a candidate for prothonotary, but was defeated at the polls. **Mr. Tharp** adopted the creed of the Lutherans, and is a member of that church, in which he fills the office of deacon. **Mr. Tharp** is possessed of fine literary talent, and has excelled as a biographical writer. He has also a poetical gift, and has in his possession the manuscripts of many beautiful poems, published and unpublished. Many magazines and periodicals have been enriched by his contributions in both prose and verse.

G. Carey Tharp was married in 1853 to **Miss Helen M.**, daughter of **Dr. James H. Case**, of Liverpool. Their children are: **Lucius Victor**, married **Mary A.**, daughter of **Joseph** and **Phoebe Lebkicher**, of Liverpool, and is engaged in carrying the mail; **George J.**, at present postmaster at Liverpool, Pa., married to **Annie**, daughter of **George H.** and **Mary Ann (Cochran) Martin**; **Mary C.**, widow of **Peter Reifsnyder**; **Florence**; **Jessie Blanche**, at home; and six children that died young.

The maternal ancestors, the **Careys**, were Norman English. The first of them who emigrated to Ireland was **Sir John Carey**. **Sir Ralph Carey** was a godson of Queen Elizabeth. **Sir Lucius Carey** was the Viscount of Falkland, and was killed in fighting Oliver Cromwell, under the standard of Charles I. **Mr. Tharp's** mother had but one full brother, and he was appointed to fill a crown position at Port Philip, Australia. She had two half brothers, both of whom emigrated to America. **James Carey** settled in the west, and took the name of **Wilson**. **George** settled in Florida, and it is supposed was engaged in mercantile business at Key West.

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