

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 III, Illustrated, New York, Lewis Historical- Publishing Company, 1913

The Thompson Family

The Thompsons of this sketch descend from **John Thompson**, who with his brother **James** came from the North of Ireland, 1730-1735, and located first in 1735 at New London Cross Roads, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Later they moved to Hanover Township, Lancaster County, where **John Thompson** married his second wife. From Hanover he moved to the Juniata Valley, settling at a point three miles distant from the present borough of Thompsontown. **James**, his brother, settled in the Cumberland Valley.

(I) **John Thompson** came up the Juniata with his family in 1768 or 1769 and purchased a tract of two hundred acres (previously warranted) near Thompsontown. He is not mentioned on the tax lists of Fermanagh Township until 1768, when he is assessed on two hundred acres, and **Robert**, his oldest son, on two hundred acres adjoining and below at Lockport. **John Thompson** died about 1779, as his name then disappears from the tax rolls. He is buried in the old **Thompson** graveyard, where a simple stone with the letters "**J. T.**," without date, marks his resting place. He married (first) a **Miss Greenlee**, daughter of **James Greenlee**, of Hanover Township. He married (second) a **Miss Slocum**; (third) **Sarah**, daughter of **James Patterson**.

Children by first wife:

1. **Margaret**, married a **Greenleaf**.
2. **Sarah**, married **John McAllister**.
3. **Elizabeth**, married **Robert McAllister**.
4. **William**, born 1754, died January 3, 1813, married **Jane Mitchell**.
5. **Robert**, married **Sarah Mitchell**.
6. **Susan**, married **Captain David Boal**, and lived in Perry County.
7. **Jane**, married **Robert Wiley**, of Washington, Pennsylvania.
8. **Isaac**, died 1823, married, and had a son **James**.

Children of second wife:

9. **John**, who moved from the Juniata Valley to Butler County, Pennsylvania. Children by third wife:

10. **Andrew**, married **Jane Stewart**, and about 1816 moved to near Chillicothe, Ohio.
11. **Peter**, of whom further.
12. **Thomas**, lived with his brother, died a bachelor, and the old farm, which then contained four hundred and thirty-three acres, passed to his brother, **Peter**.

(II) **Peter**, son of **John Thompson** and his third wife, **Sarah Patterson**, inherited with his brother **Thomas** the homestead of their father, and February 28, 1807, purchased eighty-four acres additional. **Peter** and **Thomas** worked the farm together, prospered, and enlarged its borders, and when **Thomas** died without heirs, **Peter** inherited his interest. **Peter Thompson** married **Mary Patterson**, and had issue: **John, Samuel, Silas, Thomas, John, Patterson, Mary, Margaret, Susanna** and **Ellen**.

(III) **Samuel**, son of **Peter** and **Mary (Patterson) Thompson**, was born on the old homestead farm on which his grandfather settled, and later lived in Center County and in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. He was a merchant tailor, and had a place of business in Petersburg, Huntingdon County. He served in the war of 1812, was a Whig in politics and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His second wife was **Mary Griffins**; children: **Peter, John, Henry, Samuel S.**, and **William**.

(IV) **Samuel Simpson**, son of **Samuel** and **Mary (Griffins) Thompson**, was born in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, May 24, 1819, died in Logan Township, Huntingdon County, October 7, 1889. He learned the tailor's trade with his father, established later in business for himself in Petersburg, continuing until about 1860, when he sold out and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres in Oneida Township, which he cultivated for a few years only. He then returned to Petersburg and again began tailoring, but later purchased a farm on which he lived until his death. He was a justice of the peace for many years; a Republican in politics, and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He held many local offices and was a man held in high esteem. He married **Margaret Nelson**, who died June 10, 1890, daughter of **John** and **Margaret (Steele) Nelson** —he born in Huntingdon County, she in Ireland. **John** and **Margaret Nelson** owned a small farm in Logan Township; both were members of the Presbyterian Church; he was a Democrat and local officeholder; children: **Margaret**, married **Samuel Simpson Thompson**, of previous mention; **Ellen**, married **John Nelson**, and died in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; **John**, yet a resident of Petersburg. Children of **Samuel S. Thompson**:

1. **William**, a farmer of Logan Township.
2. **Andrew Gibson**, now residing near Denver, Colorado, a painter.
3. **Mary**, married **James Gahagan**, and lives at Blackstone, Virginia.
4. **John Nelson**, of whom further.
5. **Nannie**, married **George Beeler**, and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.
6. **Martha Washington**, married **Daniel M. Wagner**, and lives at Colonial Beach, Virginia.
7. **Alonzo**, resides at Mount Union, Pennsylvania.
8. **Jennie**, married **George Armitage**, and resides in Oakland, California.

(V) **John Nelson**, son of **Samuel Simpson** and **Margaret (Nelson) Thompson**, was born at Petersburg, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, August 27, 1838. He was educated in the township schools, and spent his boyhood on the farm. He then entered mercantile life, and April 1, 1882, engaged with the Petersburg Cooperative Store as a clerk. He remained there seventeen years until October 1, 1899, when in partnership with **John H. Hoffman**, purchased the business. They trade under the firm name of **Hoffman & Thompson**, and are well established, prosperous and well known merchants. In 1902 **Mr. Thompson** assisted in organizing the Shaver's Creek Bank, and a year later was elected vice-president, a position he now holds, the bank now being known as the First National Bank. He is a Republican in politics, a member of the town council, and president of the board of health. He is a member of Mount Moriah Lodge No. 300, Free and Accepted Masons, of Huntingdon, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

He married, March 15, 1882, **Mary C**, daughter of **Clark** and **Susan Walker** of Petersburg;
children:

1. **Martha**, born May 24, 1883; married **Dr. J. M. Kerchline**, a practicing physician of Petersburg; children: **Sarah Margaret; Mary Louise; Samuel Edward**.

2. **Samuel**, born January 8, 1886; now a bookkeeper in Philadelphia; married **Mary Magraw**.

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