

History of Dauphin County, by Luther Reily Kelker, Custodian of Division Public Records of Pennsylvania With Genealogical Memoirs, Illustrated, Volume III, New York – Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1907



*Geo. W. Cumbler*

**Cumbler Family.** The history of the **Cumbler** family is traced back to **Jacob Kumler** (the original spelling) and embraces the present generation the sons of the late **George W. Cumbler**, prominent business men of today.

(I) **Jacob Kumler** was a sturdy farmer of Perry County, Pennsylvania, where he lived and labored all his life and where he died. He married and among his children was a son named **William**.

(II) **William Cumbler** was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania. He was reared on the farm and educated in the common schools of his day. He followed the occupation of a farmer for many years and then became a merchant. He was a prominent member of the Church of God and deeply interested in church work. He was a Republican in politics. **William Cumbler** married (first)

**Phoebe Oren**, born 1820, died October 21, 1841, who bore him five children: **William, Jacob, Mary (Mrs. Free), Jesse,** and **George W.**, of whom later. He married (second) **Elizabeth Bowman**, who bore him three children: **Henry**, a farmer of Perry County; **John**, station agent at Halifax, Pennsylvania; and **Elizabeth**, married **Horace Middaugh**, a railway contractor of Seattle Washington. He married (third) **Isabella Finton**, no issue.

(III) **George W. Cumbler**, son of **William** and **Phoebe (Oren) Cumbler**, was born near Red Hill Church, in the vicinity of Newport, Perry County, Pennsylvania, October 31, 1841. His mother dying when he was ten days old, he was reared by his two aunts, **Mrs. Freeland** and **Mrs. Oren**, until he was five years of age, when his father married again, this giving him a new home. When but a small boy he drove a canal boat team for a few years, and at the age of thirteen worked on a farm for a **Mr. Steel**, near Buffalo, Perry County. At the age of eighteen he commenced to serve an apprenticeship as a carpenter at Oberlin under **Josiah Dunkle**, with whom he worked for about 15 years. In 1866 he married and lived at Oberlin for the following two years, and two years later purchased the Bender far, which four years later he sold to **Josiah Dunkle**, who laid out the village of Highspire upon the same tract. At about the same date **Mr. Cumbler** purchased from **Mr. Dunkle** the stone quarries at the extreme lower end of Steelton, which he operated on a large scale until his death, ably assisted by his sons. **Mr. Cumbler** became a large realty owner in Highspire, Steelton, Norristown, Swatara and Lower Swatara Townships, his holdings including four large farms. At one time he owned the land upon which the Pennsylvania Steel Company's works are located, known as the East End Extension and another tract from which he sold off in building lots for the new part of Highspire.

In addition to his own large private business, **Mr. Cumbler** was prominent in the organization of the public enterprises by which the two boroughs have profited so largely. At the time of his death, Apt 14, 1904, he was connected with the following industries and public utilities:

Harrisburg and Steelton Brick Company, of which he was president; Steelton, Harrisburg and Middletown Railway, of which he was president; Steelton Palming Mills of which he was president; Steelton National Bank, of which he was director; the Steelton Trust Company, of which he was a director; and he was also a stock holder in the Central Pennsylvania Traction Company, the Pennsylvania Steel Company and other minor concerns. Politically, **Mr. Cumbler** was a Republican, but beyond exercising his right as a citizen, devoted no time to politics. In church relation he was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Highspire, but was a liberal contributor to the support of all churches. **Mr. Cumbler** was a representative of that class of men whose business interests not only brought to him high financial returns, but also were far-reaching in their valuable influence and public aid.

**George W. Cumbler** married, February 7, 1866, at Harrisburg, **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Adam** and **Eve (Haymaker) Hocker**, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. George F. Sterling, pastor of the Lutheran Church of Harrisburg. Their children were: **Martin A.**, **Charles C.**, **Melvin B.**, **Effie H.** and **Anna H.** **George W. Cumbler's** death, which occurred April 14, 1904, was sincerely regretted by the entire community, who gathered in great numbers at his late residence on the day of his funeral to honor his memory. His life was a remarkable one. From a humble beginning he rose to a high position in the industrial and business life of the two boroughs, Highspire and Steelton. He was beloved by his workmen, to whom he was uniformly kind and generous, and this course of treatment resulted in ultimate good to both employer and employee. His sons, who from early manhood were trusted lieutenants, have inherited his business ability and are ably conducting the varied interests and industries entrusted to their control.

**Adam Hocker**, father of **Mrs. George W. Cumbler**, was born near Hummelstown, Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. He followed the occupation of farming. In church relations he was a Lutheran. He married **Eve**, daughter of **Adam** and **Mollie (Snively) Haymaker**, and ten children were born to them, as follows: **Mary**, deceased; **Jacob**; **John**, deceased; **Adam**, deceased; **Elizabeth (Mrs. George W. Cumbler)**; **Sarah**, wife of **Peter Page**, of Paxton; **Dr. David**, deceased, late of Harrisburg; **Malinda**, wife of **Wilson Smith**, resides in Michigan; **Martin**, a resident of Steelton; **Anna C.**, wife of **William Longnecker**, of Steelton.

(IV) **Martin A. Cumbler**, eldest son of **George W.** and **Elizabeth (Hocker) Cumbler**, born July 3, 1868, was educated in the common schools of Steelton and the Business College at Harrisburg. When nineteen years old of age he was made superintendent of the extensive stone quarries owned by his father. In 1889 he took the management of the plant of the Steelton Brick Company, and in 1894 was made assistant engineer of the East Harrisburg Passenger Railway, now the Central Traction Company. Prior to this, however he was general superintendent of the construction of the Steelton, Highspire and Middletown Street Railway. He was entrusted with the management of the four large farms, previously mentioned, belonging to the estate of his father, his brother and him being the executors. He is a director of the Steelton National bank, Steelton Planing Mill Company, president of the Steelton and Harrisburg Brick Company, and is identified with many lesser interests. He is a member of the Brotherhood of Elks. **Mr. Cumbler** resides with his mother at the old homestead in Highspire, midway between Harrisburg and Middletown.

(IV) **Charles C. Cumbler**, second son of **George W.** and **Elizabeth (Hocker) Cumbler**, born September 13, 1871, was educated in the public schools of Steelton and at the Harrisburg Business College. In 1889 he was appointed superintendent of the stone quarries, before mentioned, and to their development and operation his personal supervision has since been given. He is one of the executors of his father's estate; it being stipulated in the will that his two sons, **Martin A.** and **Charles C.**, should have charge of the properties for a term of twenty-one years, which shows the estimation in which their business ability and integrity were held by the father. Aside from his large personal interests **Mr. Cumbler** is a director in the Steelton Trust Company, Steelton Brick Company, Steelton Planing Mill Company and the Steelton, Highspire and Middletown Street Railway Company. He takes a keen and active interest in the affairs of the community in which he resides, especially along educational lines, and is now (1907) serving in the capacity of school director, having filled the office for twelve years. He is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, in which he serves as deacon. His political affiliations are with the Republican Party. He was made a Mason in Prince Edward Lodge, at Middletown, uniting with that order the first Monday in January, 1903. He is also a thirty-second degree Mason of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, belonging to Harrisburg Consistory and Zembo Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is also a member of Steelton Lodge, No. 184, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Royal Arcanum of Steelton, Lodge No. 155, Order of United American Mechanics; Lodge No. 505, Protective Order Sons of America, of Highspire.

**Charles C. Cumbler** married, March 30, 1891, **Sarah Eva Fortney**, born July 12, 1873, at Middletown, Pennsylvania. Their children are: **George W.**, born October 8, 1893; **Evelyn**, born October 19, 1895. **Mrs. Charles C. Cumbler** is a daughter of **William** and **Anna (Weibley) Fortney**, of Middletown high school and a member of the Lutheran Church. **William Fortney** was born in Harrisburg, learned the trade of jeweler, and is a Democrat in politics. He is a son of **Christian Fortney**, who owned and worked a farm in Allison Hill, now part of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and a grandson of **Christian Fortney**. **Anna (Weibley) Fortney**, is a daughter of **Joseph** and **Margaret (Shrum) Weibley**, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. **Joseph Weibley** was a tailor.

(IV) **Melvin B. Cumbler**, third son of **George W.** and **Elizabeth (Hocker) Cumbler**, born November 14, 1874, married **L. Myrtle Smith**, daughter of **Jacob** and **Emma Smith**. They reside at No. 212 North Second Street, Harrisburg.

(IV) **Effie H. Cumbler**, eldest daughter of **George W.** and **Elizabeth (Hocker) Cumbler**, born March 10, 1879, married, August 12, 1896, **Frank A. Stees**, of Steelton, secretary of the Planing Mill Company of Steelton. Both are graduates of Steelton High School and members of Lutheran Church. They have one child, **Freda C. Stees**, born December 22, 1897.

(IV) **Anna H. Cumbler**, youngest daughter and child of **George W.** and **Elizabeth (Hocker) Cumbler**, born October 8, 1883, resides with her widowed mother and brother **Martin** in the family home at Highspire.