

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

**Thomas Van Irwin**, Mifflintown, Juniata County, Pa., was born in Walker Township, Juniata County, September 6, 1813, son of **Dr. John** and **Jane Horris (Bell) Irwin**. **Dr. Irwin** was born near Mifflinburg, Union County, Pa., in April, 1809. **Mrs. Irwin** was a native of Juniata County, and both were of Scotch-Irish descent. **Dr. Irwin's** preceptor in medicine was **Thomas Van Yalzah**, M. D., of Lewistown, Pa. After graduation from Jefferson Medical College, he first practiced at Millerstown, Perry County, Pa., and about 1840, removed to Walker Township. On his retirement from practice, he took up his residence on his farm in the vicinity of Thompsontown. He took a lively interest in politics, as an adherent of the Whig Party. **Dr. Irwin** was a member of the Mifflintown Presbyterian Church. He died March 14, 1853. **Mrs. Irwin** also is deceased. Those of their children who attained to mature age are: **Sarah Jane**; **Thomas V.**; **John H.**, of Mifflintown; **Margarita B.**; and **Mason**, attorney-at-law, and Judge of the Superior Court of Mason and Chehalis Counties, Wash.

**T. Van Irwin** passed his early years in Walker Township, and was fifteen years of age when the family removed to Patterson, and later to Bells Island. He received his education in the public schools, from private classical teachers, and in the State College in Centre County, where he studied for two years. He enlisted for the defense of the Union, January 1, 1864, in the Twelfth Pennsylvania Cavalry; was promoted to adjutant of the regiment in 1865, and served until July of that year. He saw much active and perilous service, principally in the Shenandoah Valley. In the Summer of 1864, he was captured near Charlestown, Va., and held a prisoner for six days; he succeeded in making his escape. At the close of the war, **Mr. Irwin** went to the oil regions, where he was engaged in oil operations in various capacities for one year. He then studied at the business college of Springfield, Mass., until 1868, in which year he entered the Juniata Valley Bank as clerk, under **P. S. Jacobs**, cashier. In 1869, he was promoted to the position of cashier, and has ever since had full charge of the business of the bank. **Mr. Irwin** was one of the organizers of the Mifflintown and Patterson Water Company, and treasurer of the same. He takes a lively and generous interest in the improvement of the town and is a zealous supporter of Republican views.

**Thomas Van Irwin** was married in 1893 to **Margaret Pomeroy**, daughter of **E. Darwin Crawford**, M. D., of Thompsontown, Juniata County. Their only child is **Margaretta Crawford Irwin**. **Mr. Irwin** is a trustee of the Westminster congregation of the Presbyterian Church, and has acted as its treasurer for many years.

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