

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

Mitchel H. Varnes, Patterson, Juniata County, Pa., was born in Juniata County, February 17, 1836. He is a son of **Isaac** and **Jane (Arnold) Varnes**. His grandfather, **Valentine Varnes**, was a native of France, who came to America during the Revolutionary War, and was captain of a company in the Continental army. He then settled on Duncan's Island, Dauphin County, Pa. His children were: **Valentine; George; Isaac; Abraham; Rebecca;** and **Susan**. **Isaac Varnes**, father of **Mitchel H. Varnes**, was born in Perry County in 1801. When a young man he settled near Mifflintown, Juniata County, but later removed to Milford Township and rented a farm. He married **Jane Arnold**, and had ten children: **Arnold; Phoebe; Isaac; Ezra; Mary; Mitchel; Michael; Maggie; Lizzie;** and **Sarah**. **Mitchel H. Varnes** was educated in Milford Township. After working on his uncle's farm for thirteen years, he received an appointment as watchman in the Lewistown Narrows. In 1867 he rented and seven years later purchased the farm on which he now resides. He is a Democrat, voting, but not seeking office for himself. He was overseer of the poor for sixteen years. In 1863 **Mitchel H. Varnes** was married to **Martha Heikes**. Their children are: **William; Jennie (Mrs. William Isenberg); Sarah (Mrs. Grant Honer); Mary (Mrs. Allen Buckwalter); John; George; Rebecca; Andrew,** deceased; **Emma;** and a **child** who died in infancy. **Mr. Varnes** attends the Old School Baptist Church.

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