

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

Jonathan Wert, shoemaker and farmer, Millerstown, Perry County, Pa., son of **John** and **Elizabeth (Miller) Wert**, was born on the old homestead near Millersburg, Dauphin County, Pa., September 23, 1814. **John Wert** (1), his great-grandfather, was born and reared at Württemberg, Germany. After his marriage, he emigrated to America, settling first in Lancaster County, Pa., and later removing to Lykens Valley, Dauphin County, Pa., where, surrounded by Indians, he built his house in the woods, under a big white oak tree, and there passed the remainder of his life. He accumulated a large amount of property, and reared nine sons and two daughters.

His son, **John Wert** (2), was born, it is supposed, in Lancaster County, and removed with his parents to Lykens Valley. He was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, after which he settled on one of his father's farms in Lykens Valley. As the result of the hardships and exposure he endured in the army, he died comparatively early, being about forty years old. His family consisted of two sons and five daughters. The sons are: **John; Adam**, married at Carlisle, Pa., where he had a store and a tavern, removed to Mifflin County, Pa., where he kept a tavern for some time, after which he engaged in the grain business at Massillon, O. The daughters of **John Wert** (2), are: **Eve (Mrs. John Neatter)**, she and her husband died; **(Mrs. John Fetterhoff)**, resided with her husband near Halifax, Dauphin County, Pa., where both died; **Catherine (Mrs. John Snyder)**, settled and died south of Berrysburg, Dauphin County, Pa.; **Christiana**, died unmarried; **Elizabeth (Mrs. John Yeagle)**, settled near Berrysburg, Dauphin County, Pa., removing to the State of New York, and there died.

John Wert (3), father of **Jonathan Wert**, was born on one of his grandfather's farms, adjoining the old homestead, and situated in the Lykens Valley about three miles from Millersburg, in 1784. His opportunities for securing an education were not abundant, but such as they were, he diligently improved them, and having much natural talent, he prepared himself for usefulness, and was for several years a teacher. But he was chiefly interested in agriculture, and when, as he approached his majority, his grandfather died, he took the farm at its appraisement. He enlisted in the war of 1812, and was stationed for six weeks at Baltimore. His death occurred in 1859, his wife surviving him nine years. He married **Elizabeth Miller**, a native of Dauphin County, whose father came from Germany. She was born in 1786 and died aged eighty-two. Their children are: **Simon**, married a lady of Lebanon, Pa., and settled at Millersburg, Pa.; **Eli**, married **Sarah Weaver**, and occupied his father's farm, where he died in 1895, and where his widow now resides; **Mary**, died aged forty years, unmarried; **Jonathan; Joseph**, married at Indianapolis, Ind., a lady from Philadelphia, Pa., and both are deceased; **Josiah**, married a native of Northumberland County, Pa., where they now reside; **Susanna (Mrs. George Shaffer)**, of Georgetown, Pa.; **Amos**, married in Pottsville, Pa., and moved to Philadelphia, where he now resides; **Rebecca**, married first **Mr. Martin**, and second, **Mr. Yeagley**, now deceased, and resides at Georgetown, Pa.; **John B.**, removed to Massillon, married and resides there, his wife being deceased. **John Wert** (3), was prominent and active in the Democratic Party, and was justice of the peace for several years. In religious views and fellowship he was a Lutheran.

The education of **Jonathan Wert** was carried on in the German subscription schools, and he could speak no English until he was twenty-two years of age. Much of his information was obtained by reading useful books after he reached manhood. When he was seventeen years of age, he began an apprenticeship with **Henry Lebo**, shoemaker, near Millersburg, Pa, serving two years, and afterwards worked at this trade. At twenty two years of age, he went to Massillon, O., making the journey from Lykens Valley to Bucyrus, O., on foot, carrying his kit of tools with him, and being accompanied by cousins, **John** and **Henry Wert**. During a two years' stay in Ohio, he was able to save one hundred dollars. The return journey was begun on foot, but on the way he fell in with an aged couple who were making the journey by team, and they offered him a ride. This he gladly accepted, accompanied them to his home near Pittsburg, Pa., and remained with them until the old man died. After reaching home, **Mr. Wert** was for a year and a half engaged in farming, after which he came to Perry County, Pa., and bought twenty-six and a half acres of land in Perry Valley, Greenwood Township, where he opened a shop. This tract he sold after a time, and bought and sold several places, until finally he settled on his present place of fifty-three acres, which was then in the woods. **Mr. Wert** is an independent voter and leanings toward the Prohibition Party.

In 1840, **Jonathan Wert** married **Miss Catherine Derrick**, born in Northumberland County, Pa., and reared in Perry County, Pa., who died December 3, 1863, and by whom his children are: **Joseph Henry**, Greenwood Township; **George W.**, Greenwood Township; **Benjamin F.**, South Bend, Ind.; **Mary E. (Mrs. John Bitting)**, Greenwood Township; **John N.**, of New Cumberland, Pa.; **William A.**, died young; **Sarah Jane**, died aged nineteen; **Jonathan R.**, of Greenwood Township; **Catherine**, died young; **David E.**, of Marysville, Pa.; and **Samuel T.**, died young. In 1864, **Mr. Wert** was married the second time to **Miss Catherine Pines**, born in Perry Valley, December 31, 1838. Their children are: **Amos M.**, resides in Colorado; **Rebecca E.**, died young; **Alice E. (Mrs. Aaron Moyer)**, of Altoona, Pa.; **Susanna Viola (Mrs. James Snyder)**, of Greenwood Township; **Martin Luther**, resides in Iowa; **Cora**, married **Lewis Sturdevant**, a barber, born at Liverpool, Pa., June 15, 1873; **Simon Lewis**, at home; and **Jesse Moody**, died young. **Mr. Wert** is a member of the Lutheran Church. In personal appearance he is dignified and venerable, having white hair and a white flowing beard.

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