

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

Samuel Wharton, Spruce Hill, Juniata County, Pa., was born April 17, 1817, in that portion of Turbett Township, Juniata County, which is now Spruce Hill Township. He is a son of **William** and **Jennie (Stewart) Wharton**. His grandfather, **Samuel Wharton**, was a native of Scotland, who came to America in company with his brother, the former settling in Bucks County, the latter, in Philadelphia. **Samuel Wharton** was a private in Washington's army during the Revolutionary war, after which he migrated to Juniata County, becoming a resident of Turbett Township, where he died in the year 1823. He married **Miss Wilson**, of Cumberland County. Their children were: **John; Samuel; James; William; Sarah**; and **two** who died in early life. **Samuel Wharton** was a Democrat. One of his sons, **William Wharton**, who was born in Berks County, received his education in Juniata County. In 1796, he enlisted in the army, for service against the hostile Indians of the Northwest Territory, and was quartermaster at Fort Wayne, Ind., under General St. Clair. He had in early life learned carpentry, and followed that trade until after the Indian war, when he purchased five hundred acres of land, part of which was timber; this tract he improved with suitable buildings, making farming his occupation for the remainder of his life. **William Wharton** married, in Turbett Township, **Jennie**, daughter of **William Stewart**, a farmer of Juniata County; she was born in that township. Their children were: **Priscilla**, deceased; **Alice (Mrs. John Gilford)**, deceased; **Sarah (Mrs. F. V. Woods)**, of Perry County, deceased; **William**, deceased; **Margaret (Mrs. Wilson Laird)**, deceased; **Samuel**, of Spruce Hill Township; **Rebecca (Mrs. James Culbertson)**, deceased; **Nancy (Mrs. J. C. Gilson)**, of Spruce Hill Township; **Emeline**, widow of **Samuel McLaughlin**, of Spruce Hill Township; and **Mary (Mrs. James McLaughlin)**, deceased. **William Wharton** was a Democrat. He was one of the first commissioners of Juniata County, having also been a county commissioner when Mifflin and Juniata still formed a single county. He also held numerous township offices. He died March 24, 1836, and was interred on the homestead farm.

Samuel Wharton, son of **William Wharton**, attended in his youth the subscription schools of Spruce Hill Township, which were in session but three months of the year, in the rude log school houses of that period. He has made fanning his life occupation, laboring with his father until the death of the latter, which occurred when **Samuel** was nineteen years of age. He continued to work for his widowed mother on the farm, until he was twenty-five years of age, when he removed to his present farm. He has greatly improved it in various ways, including the erection of a fine stone house and barn, and the planting of an excellent orchard. He has been, with success, an extensive dealer in stock of all descriptions. After a long and prosperous life, he, in 1893, retired from active duties.

Samuel Wharton was married, in Spruce Hill Township, in 1815, to **Elizabeth H.**, daughter of **Alexander Patterson**, a Juniata County farmer, of Scotch-Irish descent. She was born in that township in 1819. Their children are: **Stewart P.**, who received an academic and collegiate education, and who is now a commission merchant in Philadelphia; **Dr. Sylvester A.**, of Chicago; **Agnes (Mrs. John Kokehdaffer)**, of Perry County; and **Jane (Mrs. Z. Y. Gibson)**, of Spruce Hill Township. **Mr. Wharton** has held the township offices of school director, assessor, tax collector and overseer of the poor, in all of which positions he has discharged the duties

incumbent on him ably and efficiently. He was born and reared a Democrat, but became a Republican in 1861, and has voted the same ticket ever since. He is a member of the Academy Presbyterian church, in which body he has held the offices of deacon and trustee. **Mr. Wharton** is universally esteemed for his probity and integrity. In his old age, he is able to produce the very unusual record of having passed through a long life without ever using tobacco.

Sylvester A. Wharton, M. D., second son of **Samuel Wharton**, was born in Spruce Hill Township, Juniata County, Pa., March 27, 1848. After attending the common schools of Spruce Hill Township, he continued his studies in an academy, and in the Eastman Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., from which he graduated in 1867. For some years he worked with his father on the farm, and also dealt in stock in Juniata, Clearfield and Centre Counties. In 1870, he traveled over every western State in the Union, as well as through Canada and Mexico, in connection with transactions in live stock. In 1872, he took up the study of medicine in the St. Louis Medical College, where he spent two terms, having previously read medicine in Chicago. He also took a dental course in the same college. He began practice in Rushfield, Ind., where he spent one year; he then removed to St. Louis, Mo., where also he remained a year. In 1879-80, he was in West Baden Springs, Ind. In 1896, he was appointed superintendent of the dental department of A. M. Rotchilds and Company, which position he still occupies. His former transactions in live stock have developed so great a fondness for the business that he is still largely engaged in it, with headquarters in Chicago. **Dr. Wharton** is a member of the Chicago Medical Society. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and a Free Mason of the thirty-second degree.

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