

A History of the Juniata Valley and its People Under The Editorial Supervision of John W. Jordan, LL.D.; Librarian of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Illustrated; New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company; 1913; Volume II

WHITE

One of the best known and most respected families in Juniata Valley, Pennsylvania, is that of the **Whites**. For many generations they have been located in Pennsylvania, where they have added their quota to the material wealth and the moral upbuilding of the state. The family is of English origin, the immigrant **White** coming over to America a hundred years before the revolutionary war. Many of the name have defended the country in every war that it has had, from the one with the French to the Spanish-American, and they are widely scattered over the United States, there not being a state that has not one or more families of **Whites** within their borders. Many have occupied and do occupy high places in the councils of the nation, while others in a quiet way aid it by being good, law-abiding citizens on whom it can depend in time of need. **Robert White**, the immigrant, landed in Massachusetts in 1650-52. He was a young man of prepossessing appearance and a fine education for those times. He settled near Salem, later wandered into Connecticut, where he married, had a numerous family, lived and died. While he was a subject of England he soon saw the necessity of better laws for the government of the English crown possessions, and often spoke of it publicly. He imbued his sons and his sons' sons with the idea of liberty of thought and the freedom of speech. In dying he left a legacy of a well-spent life to his children, which was of greater importance than wealth, though he had accumulated a fine property before he had reached the age of fifty.

(I) **Samuel Crawford White**, a descendant of **Robert White**, was born in Adams County, Pennsylvania, where his family had come from Connecticut in the early days. He was reared on a farm in this county, and became one of its best known citizens. During the war of 1812 he was a commissioned officer from Adams County. He was captured by the British and held as prisoner for some time. Eventually escaping or being released, he again entered the American army, but peace was made between the two belligerent nations and he returned home to again resume the tranquil vocations of life. Later he moved from Adams County to Perry County, Pennsylvania, and engaged in the lumber business at Baileys. He was successful in his undertaking and amassed wealth. In 1854 he moved to Juniata Township and settled in Tuscarora, where he lived, much honored by his neighbors, until his death at the age of eighty-three. He was a prominent Democrat, active at all times in the interest of his party, and was once a candidate for legislative honors from Perry County. Both he and his wife were members of the Reformed Church, and were generous and zealous in their support of it. He married **Margaret Armstrong**, a beautiful young woman, daughter of **Robert Armstrong**, an influential and wealthy landed proprietor of Armstrong County, named for the family. **Margaret** was born in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and there grew up with all the advantages that were given to a young lady of wealth and high social standing of that day. She was a dominating figure in the life of her brilliant husband, aiding and supplementing his efforts in every way. She died at the age of seventy-seven, having lived a useful life. Among their children was **William A.**, of whom further.

(II) **William A. White**, son of **Samuel Crawford** and **Margaret (Armstrong) White**, was born April 2, 1830, in Adams County, Pennsylvania. Later when his parents moved to Perry County

he attended school, and when at a still later date they moved to Juniata County, he finished his education in Tuscarora. He remained at the homestead, and after the death of his father he purchased the interests of the other heirs in the two hundred and sixteen acres of land that comprised it, and lived there until today (1913), having reached the venerable age of eighty-three. During these years he has commanded the respect, admiration and love of all those who know him. He has always been a staunch Democrat, voting with and working for the party, and has held many township offices. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church. He married **Mary Mairs**, born in Tuscarora Township, and died September 15, 1882, a daughter of **Thomas** and **Matilda (Smith) Mairs**, both of whom were born in Ireland. **Thomas Mairs** and **Matilda Smith** came with their respective families to the United States while yet young. They met and married in Pennsylvania, and after marriage located about two miles from East Waterford, Pennsylvania, where he became a farmer and landowner, one of the most prosperous men in that section of the state, and one of its progressive citizens. They were of the Presbyterian faith, having been so in Ireland. He died rather young, but she lived unmarried, faithful to his memory, dying after she was eighty. They were the parents of eight children: 1. **Silas**, a valiant soldier in the civil war, and met a gallant death at the battle of Seven Pines. 2. **Hugh**, a farmer and stock breeder in Wayne County, Ohio. 3. **Mary**, born in Tuscarora Township, died September 15, 1882; married **William A. White**. 4. **James**, makes his home in Michigan. 5. **Margaret**, married **Neal McCoy Stewart**, of McCoysville, Pennsylvania. The children of **William A.** and **Mary (Mairs) White** are: 1. **Samuel**, drowned, aged twenty. 2. Died **unnamed**, in infancy. 3. **Adella**, married **J. S. Magill**, of Huntingdon County. 4. **Jennie**, married **Frank Felger**, a grain dealer in Big Graff, Ohio. 5. **Silas M.**, a farmer and grain dealer in Burbank, Ohio. 6. **John Magill**, of whom further. 7. **Bruce**, an employee of the Pennsylvania railroad, at Pitcairn, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. 8. **Died** in infancy.

(II) **John Magill White**, son of **William A.** and **Mary (Mairs) White**, was born June 28, 1871, in Tuscarora Township, Juniata County, Pennsylvania. He was reared in the free, open life of the farm, and educated in the public schools of the township. For some time before his marriage he was engaged in general farm work; after marriage he farmed on the **White** homestead for a year. At the end of twelve months he moved to Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, and became an employee of the Tuscarora Valley railroad. During the time of his employment with the railroad he gradually became interested in the lumber business, and in 1906 he resigned from the railway and gave up other enterprises to devote his time entirely to lumbering. He began operating on a large scale in Lock and Tuscarora Townships and in Huntingdon County. At the present time (1913) he is the owner of one mill and uses the output of two others, which products go largely to the Pennsylvania road and many points in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He has rapidly established a reputation for bold business transactions, in which he has been eminently successful. He votes the Democratic ticket, works for the party and has held township offices with credit to himself and the satisfaction of his constituency. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

He married, April 3, 1895, **Anna L. Marshall**, born in Juniata County, daughter of **Henry** and **Catherine Marshall**, who were old settlers in Perry County, moving from thence to Juniata County. Children: 1. **Clarence**. 2. **Wellington**, died in infancy. 3. **Gilbert**. 4. **Alvie**.