

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

**S. H. Whitmer**, D. D. S., Newport, Perry County. The **Whitmer** family originated in Sweden, and some of its members came to America before the Revolutionary war, in which they took an active and honorable part. **John Whitmer**, great-grandfather of **Dr. Whitmer**, served in the Continental army, and lost his life in the battle of the Brandywine. **Samuel Michael**, the maternal great-grandfather of **Dr. Whitmer**, was also in the Revolutionary army, and was killed at the battle of Princeton, N. J. **Henry Whitmer**, grandfather of **Dr. Whitmer**, was born in Pennsylvania, and spent his life in agricultural pursuits. He married **Miss Byerly**, of Northumberland County, and died at the age of eighty years, his wife living to be ninety years old. Two of their children, **Benjamin** and **Elizabeth**, lived to old age. **Elizabeth** married **Mr. Daniel Wolf**, with whom she resided at Uniontown, Pa., where they remained until 1870, when they removed to Lykens, Pa. Here **Mr. Wolf** died, but his widow still survives. **Samuel**, another son of **Henry Witmer**, was a farmer, and died at the age of twenty-six years, leaving one daughter, who married **Emanuel Spotts**.

**Benjamin Whitmer**, father of **Dr. Whitmer**, was born east of Georgetown, in Stone Valley, Northumberland County, Pa., in 1811. He was reared a farmer, and continued at this occupation until 1858, when he removed to Mifflintown, Pa. His first removal to Juniata County was after the death of his grandfather in 1851, when the old homestead in Northumberland County was sold. His wife, the mother of **Dr. Whitmer**, was born in 1812, and died April 5, 1894, and was buried at Mifflintown, Juniata County, by the side of her husband. He was originally an old line Whig, but joined the Republican Party at its formation. He lived a consistent Christian life in the membership of the Lutheran Church, in which he held important official places. He was most charitably inclined, and on many occasions substantially befriended the poor. The children of **Benjamin Whitmer** are: **Reuben W.**, died March 24, 1885, at Goshen, Ind., where he conducted the largest planing-mill in that part of the State; he married **Mary Hackenberger**, of Selinsgrove, Snyder County, Pa.; **Harry W.**, who went to Decatur County, Ill., in 1859, where he is employed in manufacturing brick and tile, married **Anna M. App**, of Selinsgrove, Snyder County, Pa.; **Mary A. (Mrs. Daniel Pannebaker)**, of Mifflintown, Pa.; **Isaac D.**, merchant, of Selinsgrove, Pa., enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, in 1863, and was killed at Fayetteville, N. C, March 14, 1865; **John**, died in infancy; **Dr. S. H.**; **Elizabeth**, died in infancy; **Benjamin P.**, died in infancy; and one infant died unnamed at the age of three days.

**Dr. S. H. Whitmer** was born near Georgetown, Northumberland County, Pa., September 14, 1844. At six years of age, he removed with his parents to Perry County, where he remained one year, the family then removed to Juniata County, where he first attended school at Horningtown. For the next two years the family occupied a farm at Cuba Mill, owned by **Mrs. Forrey**, and after that, until the spring of 1858, rented the farm of **George McCullough**, near Jerico Mills, where the **Doctor** attended the Big Run School. Mifflintown next became the place of family residence, and here the **Doctor** attended school and completed his education at the age of fourteen years, most of his instruction having been received in the common schools. His next removal was to Decatur, Ill., where he resided in the family of his brother; but soon after his

arrival he entered the printing office of the Decatur Weekly Gazette, edited by **A. J. Davis**, where he remained until February, 1862. At the request of his father, he then returned to Mifflintown, Pa., and at once enlisted in the army for a term of nine months. Joining Company F, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Pennsylvania Volunteers. The regiment was sent to the front and placed as a part of the reserved line in the second battle of Bull Run, after which it proceeded in pursuit of Lee's army, reached the battlefield of Antietam, September 18, 1862, and was placed in line of battle. Subsequently, the regiment participated in the battle of Fredericksburg, and was also in the grand charge made by Humphreys' Division on Mary's Heights, December 13, 1862. Shortly after this the regiment took part in the great Meade march, and in May of the same year proceeded to Chancellorsville, by Kelly's Ford, was taken to the extreme left of the army, and occupied the entrenchments during Friday and Saturday; on Sunday morning it was moved to the front and engaged the enemy, to the right of the Chancellorsville House. Here the Doctor was wounded in the head by a buckshot, after which he was conveyed to the Fifth Corps Hospital, near Potomac Creek Bridge, where he remained till the discharge of the regiment; he was taken by his comrades to Harrisburg and honorably discharged by reason of expiration of term of service, in May 1863. Returning to his home, his wound was skillfully dressed by **Drs. Light** and **Crawford**. In the fall of 1863, he entered the office of **Dr. G. L. Derr**, where he pursued the study of dentistry until April, 1864. At this date he removed to Landisburg, Perry County, Pa., where he opened a dental office. He was not quite twenty years of age, but was possessed of plenty of pluck and energy. In the spring of 1866 he sold his practice and removed to Shippensburg, Pa., where he opened a new office and remained in practice until 1868; he then sold out and removed to Millersburg, Dauphin County, Pa. Here he was engaged in practice until April, 1870, when he sought a new location at Newport, Pa.; here he has since been employed in professional work, with the most gratifying success. **Dr. Whitmer** is one of the organizers and a director of the First National Bank, and is also a promoter and a director of the Water Company. In society circles he is prominent, holding place in the various ranks of the Masonic Order, and membership in the Newport Post, No. 294, G. A. R. In religious preference he naturally leans towards the Lutheran Church. He is a Republican, and has served as school director, being now president of the school board. He is a firm advocate of compulsory education.

**Dr. Whitmer** was married November 25, 1865, to **Mary E.**, daughter of **Maj. William** and **Rebecca (Kennedy) Power**; their children are: **Frank P.**, a graduate in the class of 1890, of Pennsylvania College of Gettysburg, and private secretary of **J. M. Tamphoton**, general yardmaster of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; and **Dr. S. Edward**, also a graduate of Gettysburg College, and a practicing dentist located at Troy, Bradford County, Pa.

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