

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

Herman Francke Willard, M.D., Mexico, Walker Township, Juniata County, Pa., was born February 23, 1857, at Loysville, Perry County. He is a son of **Rev. Philip** and **Margaretta (Chritzman) Willard**. The **Willard** family is of Huguenot descent. Their progenitors were driven by persecution to seek refuge in Germany, whence **Elias Willard**, great-grandfather of **Dr. Willard**, came with his father to America; they settled in Frederick County, Md., where **Elias Willard** passed the rest of his life. He married **Miss Gump**, a Moravian lady, of Bethlehem, Pa. They had twelve children; one of these, **George**, was born May 30, 1770, and died December 24, 1849; he was the father of **Rev. Philip Willard**. He was a tanner and farmer. His wife was **Susanna**, daughter of **Michael** and **Lenora Culler**, born March 14, 1781, died May 24, 1864. Their children are: **Mary (Mrs. Christian Weaver)**, born in 1805; **Elizabeth (Mrs. Jacob Remsberg)**, born in 1807, is deceased; **Rev. Philip**, born September 29, 1809, deceased; **Catherine (Mrs. William Erving)**, born in 1812, deceased; **Susannah (Mrs. Dr. James Willard)**, born in 1814; **John**, born 1817, deceased; **Henry**, born in 1818; **Ann Eliza**, born in 1821; and **George T.**, born in 1824. The eldest son, **Philip Willard**, born in Frederick County, Md., first worked in his father's tannery, and later took charge of the home farm. This occupation was relinquished in November, 1834, when he entered the preparatory department of Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, Pa.; in 1839, he was graduated with the degree of A. B., and in 1840, received that of A. M. In 1841, he was graduated after a two years' course from the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and immediately began the active duties of the ministry, at Manchester, Md., where he officiated in both English and German, serving eight congregations. His next pastorate, covering three years, was at Westminster, Md.; during that period, he organized new congregations, and did much to extend and stimulate the work of the church. After some time spent at Lovettsville, Va., **Rev. Mr. Willard** became traveling agent for the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, in 1848. In this capacity he added materially to the prosperity of the seminary. He was afterwards pastor at Danville, Pa., for six years; at Loysville, Pa., for two years and a half; and at Mifflintown, Pa., for two years and a half; then for three years he served the charge at Schuylkill Haven, Pa., after which he was for five years general superintendent of the Lutheran Publication House in Philadelphia. During his various pastorates, about nineteen hundred members were added to the congregations which enjoyed his faithful care. One of his latest services, and one of the farthest reaching as to the benefits conferred, was rendered in connection with the Orphans' Home at Loysville, Pa., an account of which is given elsewhere in this work. **Rev. Philip Willard** acted as the agent of the Lutheran Church in the purchase of the land on which the Tressler Orphans' Home is built, was active in securing the co-operation of a number of Synods comprised in the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and was for a number of years the faithful, judicious and fatherly superintendent of the institution. In October, 1841, **Rev. P. Willard** married **Margaretta**, daughter of **George Chritzman**, of Gettysburg, Pa. Their children are: **Virginia**; **Janetta**; **Martin Luther**, of Americus, Kan.; **George M.**, of Philadelphia; **Samuel Schmucker**; **Ezra Kellar**; **Herman Francke**, M. D.; and **Newton T.**, of Philadelphia. A life of piety and usefulness was brought to a sudden close by an accident on the Pennsylvania railroad, in which **Rev. Mr. Willard** was killed, in July, 1893.

Dr. Herman F. Willard attended the public schools of Loysville, Perry County, of Schuylkill Haven, Schuylkill county, and of Hummelstown, Dauphin County, as well as the grammar school of Reading, Pa. Naturally bright and diligent in the pursuit of knowledge, he went to Pennsylvania College, situated on the Gettysburg battlefield, well prepared for the course of study which he there passed through. Leaving the college in 1878, before graduation, the Doctor passed one year as a teacher in the Loysville Orphan School, after which he went to Kansas, and for six years traveled from State to State, engaged in the purchase and sale of live stock. Returning east, he entered the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia in 1885, having previously read medicine with **Dr. Hoke**, of Loysville. He graduated from the medical college in the class of 1889, with the highest honors. Determined to stand at the very head of his profession, **Dr. Willard** took post-graduate courses in diseases of women and children, surgery and other specialties of the profession. He returned to Loysville, and since 1889, has been a general medical practitioner in Mexico, Pa., meeting with abundant success, and enjoying in a high degree the respect and confidence of his patients and of the entire community. The Doctor is a member of the Medical Society of Juniata County, and of several college fraternities. He is a Republican. **Dr. Herman Francke Willard** was married in Mexico, in 1892, to **Mary**, daughter of the **Rev. Francis McBurney**, of Mexico. Their children are: **Margaret E.**; and **Jerome W.** The family attend the Presbyterian Church.

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