

History of York County, Biographical, Illustrated, Volume II, Chicago, J. H. Beers and Company, 1907

Joseph Wilt, who owns and occupies a fertile, well-cultivated farm in Fairview Township, is at the present time acting in the capacity of school director. He was born in Fishing Creek Valley, March 2, 1849, son of **William Wilt**.

Michael Wilt, the grandfather of **Joseph**, was a farmer of Manchester Borough, Manchester Township, where he died, the father of these children: **Henry**; **William**; **John**, of Perry County; **Daniel**, of Kansas; **Catherine**, the wife of **John Prowell**; **Susan**, the wife of **James Prowell**, and **Lydia A.**, the wife of **John Zeigler**, of York. **William Wilt** received a common-school education, and on attaining maturity commenced farming in Fishing Creek Valley, later working on Dr. Young's farm in Cumberland County. He returned to York County, and farmed property then owned by Peter Bricker, now known as the Moser place. He then located at Slate Hill, returning to Fishing Creek Valley in 1861 and purchasing the Michael Smith farm of 133 acres in 1865. This he operated for a number of years, greatly improving it and building upon it a residence in which he lived until 1885. He then lived retired for a number of years in New Cumberland, prior to his death, April 2, 1903, at the age of seventy-nine. **William Wilt** married **Sarah Smith**, daughter of **Michael** and **Catherine Smith**, and she died in July, 1862, being interred, as was her husband, at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Fairview Township. **Mr. Wilt** was a Republican in political faith. He was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church of Fairview Township. The children born to **Mr.** and **Mrs. Wilt** were: **John**, who was killed by an elevator at Steelton, in April, 1884; **Joseph**; **Harry**, who is in the furniture and undertaking business at Steelton, Dauphin County, married a **Miss Gross**; **Julia**, the wife of **Lewis Kilmore**, lives in New Cumberland, and **Ella**, the wife of **Jacob LeFevre**, also lives in New Cumberland.

Joseph Wilt attended the township schools until seventeen years of age, and then commenced to work for his father on the home farm. In 1869 he married **Sarah J. Beckley**, daughter of **Jesse** and **Susan (Hare) Beckley**, of Fairview Township. After marriage **Mr.** and **Mrs. Wilt** located on his father's farm, and then removed to **Mr. Beckley's** farm, where he remained four years. In 1874 they returned to the paternal homestead, remaining there three years, after which he passed a short time in Kansas. He returned to Pennsylvania and located in New Cumberland, Cumberland County, where he remained three years. In 1884 he purchased his father's farm, where he has since been engaged in farming and butchering, attending the Harrisburg markets. **Mr. Wilt** is one of the substantial business men and good citizens of the township, and is held in the highest esteem by his neighbors and associates generally.

Mr. and **Mrs. Wilt** have had these children **Russel**, who died when, thirteen months old; **Susan**, died when seven weeks old; one **infant**, deceased; **Adam**, who died when nineteen days old, and **Lloyd B.**, who attended Shippensburg Normal school, from which he was graduated in 1900, taught school at the Hickory Grove school, Fairview Township, and is now assisting his father on the farm. In politics **Mr. Wilt** is a Republican, and is serving his township most acceptably as a school director.

Jesse Beckley, **Mrs. Wilt's** father, was born in Baltimore County, Md., as were her mother and herself. He came to Pennsylvania, in 1858, and settled in Fairview Township, where he farmed upon property which he there purchased. He was a prominent farmer and a very active man, living in retirement for several years previous to his death, which occurred in 1897, at the age of eighty-one years. His wife is still living, aged seventy-six. Eight children were born to this worthy couple, viz. **Sarah J.**, **Mary E.**, **Arietta**, **William H.**, **John Q.**, **David**, **Elmer** and **Susan**.