

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, Comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry, Pennsylvania, Volume 1, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers 1897

**Jacob Rupp Wirt**, P. O. McVeytown, Mifflin County, Pa., was born near Mexico, Walker Township, Juniata County, Pa., August 1, 1839. His great-grandfather came to America about 1770, from one of the cantons of Switzerland, settled in the vicinity of Boston, Mass., and ultimately came to what is now Northumberland County, Pa., where his son **Nicholas** was born and reared to early manhood. At the age of seventeen **Nicholas** entered the Continental army as a drummer boy, and served twenty-two months. **Nicholas** married **Margaret Sidel**, and they reared a large family of children, among whom was **Daniel**, father of **Jacob R. Wirt**. **Daniel Wirt** was born in Adams County, Pa., June 10, 1804. He was seven years old when his parents removed to Perry County, and resided between Millerstown and Carlisle until 1824. He then lived two years in Wild Cat Valley, in the same county, after which he spent three years at Millerstown, learning stone masonry. During the summers of 1828 and 1829, he was employed on the Pennsylvania canal, along the Juniata River. Altogether he worked forty years at his trade. He was married in the village of Mexico, Pa., in the latter part of 1830, to **Maria**, daughter of **David** and **Margaret Miller**, born in Lancaster County, April 8, 1808. Their children are: **David**; **Susan**; **Jacob R.**; and **Daniel**. **Mr. Wirt** was an earnest and consistent member of the Lutheran Church, and was a judicious and just man. He removed April 1, 1833, to the homestead in Walker Township, where he spent the remainder of his life, and died there in December, 1888.

**Jacob Rupp Wirt** was reared on the homestead, and was educated in the local schools. At the early age of fourteen, he began to work out among the neighbors, and was employed in this way for three years. In 1857-58 he was employed with his brother **David** at masonry, but not having the physical strength requisite for such heavy work, he abandoned the trade and became a teacher, and from 1858 to 1872 was successfully engaged in this profession. In 1872 he became cashier in the bank of Moore, McWilliams & Co., in McVeytown, and filled the position until 1879, when he was elected justice of the peace; in this office he has served continuously since. In 1869 he had been elected to the office and served one term of five years. He has also been the local agent for some of the best fire and life insurance companies in the business. In 1868 **Mr. Wirt** developed the first sand at McVeytown, and shipped the first carload consigned from the mine now operated by **C. P. Dull**. He is a supporter of the Democratic Party: also a member of McVeytown Lodge No. 376, F. and A. M.

**Mr. Wirt** was married September 3, 1867, to **Sarah E. Reifsnyder**, born November 3, 1844, a daughter of **Jonathan** and **Maria Ann (Seibert) Reifsnyder**, of Womelsdorf, Berks County, Pa. Their children are: **Lucius A.**; **Mary B.**; **William M.**; **Irene E.**; **John O.**; and **George H.** **Mr.** and **Mrs. Wirt** are members of the Presbyterian Church at McVeytown.

**Jacob R. Wirt** and his brother, **Daniel S. Wirt**, enlisted June 30, 1863, in Company K, Thirty-fourth regiment of the Emergency Troops; **Jacob R. Wirt** was made quartermaster's sergeant of the regiment, and both were honorably discharged, August 24, 1863.

