

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

Alfred Wright, farmer, Newport, Perry County, Pa., was born in Greenwood Township, Perry County, Pa., February 5, 1849, son of **James** and **Melissa (Buchanan) Wright**. His ancestors came from England. His great-grandfather, a bridge builder, lived near Philadelphia, and while working at his trade, fell from a bridge and was killed.

Charles Wright, grandfather of **Alfred Wright**, it is supposed was born near Philadelphia and was very young at the time of his father's death. His mother then married a **Mr. Mitchell**, after which the family came to Perry County. **Charles Wright** married **Deborah Van Camp**, settled in Greenwood Township, became a prosperous farmer and a prominent and honored citizen, and was elected county commissioner for one term. On retiring from active business, he settled at Millerstown, Pa., where he resided for twenty years, and died about 1868, aged eighty six years, his wife having died some years before, at the age of eighty-two.

James Wright, father of **Alfred Wright**, was born in Greenwood Township, Perry County, in 1813, and learned farming. He then bought a farm from his father, which he occupied until 1867, when he sold it and removed to a farm which he purchased in the northwestern part of DeKalb County, Mo. After holding this land for three years, he sold it, returned to Perry County, Pa., and made his home with his son, **Alfred**, until his death.

He married **Melissa Buchanan**, who was born in Liverpool Township in 1814. Their children are: **Charles**, a carpenter, of Millerstown, Pa., served in the late war; **John B.**, died in Missouri in 1871, enlisted in the late war in the Two Hundred and Eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers; **Lucretia Ann (Mrs. Henry Martin)**, resides on the old homestead in Greenwood Township; **James A.**, farmer, Liverpool Township, served in the late war in the One Hundred and Thirty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers, was discharged, and afterwards served in the Signal Corps under Gen. Phil. Sheridan; and **Alfred**. **Mr. Wright** always voted the Democratic ticket, excepting in 1864, when he voted for Abraham Lincoln for a second term of the presidency. He died in 1874, his wife in March, 1892. He was prominent and active in the Presbyterian Church, and was highly honored.

Alfred Wright was educated in the common schools, and grew up on the farm, and was the only one of the children who accompanied his parents when, in 1867, they removed to Missouri. He remained in that State only two months, and then returned to Perry County, Pa., where he found employment with his brother-in-law in Greenwood Township. In February, 1868, he rented a farm in Greenwood Township, where he went to housekeeping, and on which he continued to live until the fall of 1871, when he bought his present place containing 197 acres, once known as the **Trimmer** farm and later as the **Kraft** farm. Here he has been engaged in raising general farm products and has made his business successful and profitable, and in the meantime has added many substantial and valuable improvements to the farm. **Mr. Wright** has been active in politics in connection with the Democratic Party, and has served in all township offices, having been school director six years, supervisor three years, and member of the election board almost

continuously. The Golden Rule has been the governing law of his life, although he never joined any church organization.

On November 21, 1867, he was married to **Miss Catherine Kraft**, of Howe Township, daughter of **Henry Kraft**. Their children are: **Henry Harrison**, farmer in Greenwood Township; **Alfred Ambrose**, railroad track man, of Oliver Township; **Naomi Ellen (Mrs. John H. Hetrick)**, of Greenwood Township; **Clark Wellington**, resides in Howe Township; **Maggie M.**, at home; **Elmer H.**, at home; **Grover Cleveland**; **Kellie Frances**; and **Cyrus S.**

www.theperryhistorians.org