

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

William A. Ziders, Knousetown, Juniata County, Pa., was born at Ickesburg, Perry County, Pa., February 25, 1845, son of **David S.** and **Mary J. (Robinson) Ziders**. **David S. Ziders** was born in Perry County, son of **Jacob Ziders**, and was a shoemaker. This trade he earned on first in Perry County; afterward, when his son, **William A.**, was a child, he removed to Turkey Valley, in Juniata County, continuing to ply his trade, which he did successively also in Academia, Turkey Valley, and Thompsontown, Pa. In 1891, he retired from active business. He and his wife still reside near Thompsontown, enjoying the repose and leisure so suitable for those who can look back upon a lifelong and usefully employed. **Mr. David S. Ziders** was first married at Ickesburg, Pa., to **Mary J. Robinson**. Their children were: **James** and **William A.**, twins, of whom the former is deceased; **Ellen**, deceased; and **Sarah**, deceased. **Mr. Ziders'** first wife died in Perry County. He married for his second wife **May Spade**, of Perry County; their children are: **Kate (Mrs. Edward Carpenter)**, of Lancaster County; **Henry**, deceased; **George**, of Kansas; **David**, of Harrisburg, Pa.; **Caroline (Mrs. Miller Graybill)**, of Snyder county; **Matilda (Mrs. David Benner)**; **Martin**, of Snyder County; **Annie (Mrs. Jacob Miller)**, of Snyder County; and **Samuel**, of Locust Run, Juniata County. **Mr. Ziders** is a Democrat. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

William A. Ziders attended the public schools of Academia and Turkey Valley. He learned shoemaking of his father, but spent only a short time in working at his trade. When but sixteen years of age, he enlisted in 1861, at Harrisburg, Pa., in Company I, Fifty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers, under Col. J. R. Brooke and Capt. H. S. Dimm. During the ensuing winter, the regiment was stationed at Alexandria, Va., and in the spring of 1862, was assigned to the Third Brigade, First Division, Second Corps. Its first engagement was Fair Oaks, where the gallant conduct of the regiment drew words of commendation from the commanding generals. Its record on subsequent occasions—at Gaines Mill, at Peach Orchard, where General Sumner commended the bravery of its men, at White Oak Creek, at Malvern Hill, in the Seven Days' fight, at Antietam, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania, and in other engagements of greater or less moment—form a brilliant chapter in the history of the war. On the field and on the march, it was constantly relied upon for difficult and perilous duties, and never failed to realize fully all that was expected of it. Of this splendid body of men, as circumstances show, **William A. Ziders** was a worthy comrade. At Spotsylvania, May 12, 1861, where the regiment made one of its most dashing and successful charges, he was captured, and held a prisoner, first at Andersonville, and afterwards at Florence, S.C, until February, 1865; but the boy soldier and his services were not forgotten during his absence, the record showing that on December 1, 1861, he was promoted to corporal. The horrible privations endured in the southern prison pens reduced him almost to a skeleton. After his release, he obtained a furlough for thirty-five days, which he spent at home, and then rejoined his regiment at Alexandria, and participated in the closing scenes of the war; he was mustered out with his company, June 30, 1865. So severely had his constitution suffered from these trying experiences, that for a year after his discharge, he was incapable of doing much work of any kind. During this time, while slowly recuperating, he drove a mill wagon at Liverpool, Pa. He then learned with John Deane the trade of a molder, at which he worked for seventeen years, and afterwards engaged in the

same occupation on his own account, and has carried it on ever since. He is the manufacturer of the Rohrbaugh plough, and also farms fifty acres of land. **Mr. Ziders** is a "free silver" Democrat, and has served as auditor, as supervisor for three terms, and as school director for three terms. He is a member and past commander of Post No. 316, G. A. R.

William A. Ziders was married in 1865, in Monroe Township, to **Margaret L.**, daughter of **John N. Deane**. Their children are: **Ida**, died young; **James**, clerk in a store at Northumberland, Pa.; **Dallie (Mrs. M. S. Marks)**, of Juniata County; **John**, clerk, of Shamokin, Northumberland County; **George**, residing in the same county; **Delia (Mrs. A. P. Glotfelter)**, of Juniata County; and **Daisy**, at home. **Mr. Ziders** is a member of the Reformed Church.

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