

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

Thaddeus Stevens Zimmerman, Ickesburg, Perry County, Pa., was born November 19, 1848, in Thompsontown, Juniata County, Pa. He is the only child of **Isaac** and **Mary Ann (Gutshall) Zimmerman**. **Isaac Zimmerman**, who was a native of Juniata County, died while his son **Thaddeus S.** was very young. His widow was married to **Jacob Kauffman**, who is also deceased, and **Mrs. Kauffman** resides with **Mr. Zimmerman**. She has besides one son by her second marriage, **James Kauffman**, who resides in Juniata County.

Attending the common schools in his boyhood during the very brief winter terms which were then considered abundant measure, **Thaddeus Zimmerman** spent his vacations in doing any honest work by which he might accumulate a sum sufficient to procure for him broader educational opportunities. He worked as a farm hand; he was not above chopping wood for his neighbors, or doing stable work at the hotel—anything to further his cherished purpose. He succeeded, as he deserved to do. People were glad to employ the willing lad. Before he was twenty he was one of the "floating gang," working at repairs on the railroad at \$1.60 per day; he was thus employed between Patterson, Juniata County, and Huntingdon, Pa., for about three years. He accomplished his desire, studied for a term at the normal school at Thompsontown, Pa., at the age of twenty, and then taught for a year in the free schools, thus at once reviewing and giving form to the knowledge he had acquired, and earning a modest livelihood. He received his first training for mercantile life as a clerk in the store of George S. Mills & Co., of Thompsontown, for which position he gave up teaching. He was some time later employed in the establishment of **John G. Halderman**, for whom he was clerk until Mr. Halderman's interest was merged into the firm of Halderman & Sellers, **Mr. Zimmerman** continuing for one year as a clerk to the firm. At the close of his engagement with George Mills & Co., that firm sold out to Messrs. Kelley & Smith, and **Mr. Zimmerman** remained one half year with them, in order to assist them in learning the business. He was a very successful as a clerk, being capable and strictly attentive to duty, and his services were always in demand. After leaving the establishment of Halderman & Sellers, he spent a year on the Bradford fruit farm, and then engaged with Hench & Stewart, wholesale notion dealers, of Harrisburg, Pa., as traveling salesman. His business was to go with a two-horse team through Cumberland, York, Perry and Juniata Counties, supplying the storekeepers with goods. This he continued to do for four years, and was then in the store of Hench & Stewart for one year, after which **Mr. Hench** placed him in charge of his store at Ickesburg; in this place **Mr. Hench** was born and reared. The engagement was for one year, but **Mr. Zimmerman** managed the business for four years, after which he purchased the property, stock and good will of **Mr. Hench**, and has carried on business here ever since. He has greatly increased the original trade, and has remodeled the dwelling, which is now a beautiful and convenient home. **Mr. Zimmerman's** business methods are noted for honor and fairness, so that his customers are more than satisfied with his dealings. His political opinions are decidedly Republican; he could not belong to any other party, he thinks, as a namesake of **Thaddeus Stevens**, of whom it was said, among many other jokes perpetrated on that distinguished man, that he was so "black" a Republican that he could have none but a black housekeeper.

Thaddeus S. Zimmerman was married, December 22, 1873, to **Lucinda**, daughter of Jesse and **Susanna (Seiders) Baker**, of the vicinity of Thompsontown, Juniata County. Their children are: **Olive M.**, a teacher, residing at home; **Mason S.**; **Mervin G.**; **Janet** and **Thersa**, twins; all the children reside with their parents. **Mr. Zimmerman** was formerly an attendant on the services of the United Presbyterian Church, but is now active in the Lutheran denomination ; he is an elder in the church, and has for four years been superintendent of the Sunday-school.