

feel grateful not only for his progressive ideas, but also for the ability which he showed in carrying them out for the benefit of the public. Mr. Mayer is peculiarly well qualified for the position he now holds, his genial personality and true hospitality making his house one of the favorite resting places for a large part of the traveling public.

JOHN L. GROFF, of Strasburg borough, is one of the leading and representative citizens and belongs to an old and prominent family of Lancaster county.

John L. Groff was born in the old Groff homestead March 12, 1847, a son of Emanuel Groff, and was reared on the farm, early becoming skilled in agricultural labor. His education was pursued in the common schools of the district, and at the age of twenty-four he took charge of his father's farm, conducting it on shares for a period of eighteen years, and then purchased it. This most valuable property has been under his care for thirty years, and contains 112 acres of some of the best land in the county. In 1900 he moved into Strasburg, where he erected a fine, modern residence, which is probably just as complete as any in the town, being equipped with electric lights, and hot air heating, in combination with all improvements which are designed to make life comfortable.

On Nov. 10, 1870, John L. Groff was married to Barbara Leaman, a daughter of Tobias and Elizabeth (Denlinger) Leaman, who was born Feb. 21, 1851, in East Lampeter township, and one son, Aaron L., born April 7, 1873, blessed this union. Aaron L. married Lizzie Groff, and they reside in Leacock township, where he is a successful farmer. Both Mr. and Mrs. Groff are consistent members of the Old Mennonite Church, and the family is one of the most highly respected in the community.

"JOHN R. FRANTZ, junior member of the milling firm of Frantz & Son, of Millersville, is a worthy representative of an honored old family which has been identified with the business interests of this county for over a century. . . .

Jacob Frantz, his great-grandfather, when a young man, about 1815, purchased property near Leaman Place, east of Lancaster, consisting of a farm of 200 acres and a flouring mill, for which he paid \$40,000. Locating here, he devoted the remainder of his life to the operating of his farm and mill, and being a keen, shrewd business man he accumulated much wealth. He was one of the leading and influential citizens of the county, and an active worker in the Mennonite Church. He died in 1840, at the age of seventy years, and his wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Hershey, died at the age of ninety-five. Of the children born to them two died in early childhood. The others were as follows: ① Jacob received the mill property and eighty acres of the home farm, where he remained throughout life, dying there at the age of seventy years. He

operated the mill and was often called upon to settle estates for his neighbors. He married but had no children. ② Joseph is mentioned below. ③ Annie married Sem Eby, now deceased, and she died at the age of over eighty years. ④ Henry secured a part of the old homestead, where he followed farming for a time, but finally sold out and moved to Baltimore county, Md. He spent his last years, however, in Rock Island, Illinois.

Joseph Frantz, grandfather of John R., was born near Lititz, Lancaster county, Nov. 1, 1807, and died Aug. 25, 1897. After his marriage he located in East Earl township, where he purchased 113 acres of land and engaged in farming, but finally sold that property and bought eighty-seven acres of land and a mill in Salisbury township. He added to the farm sixteen acres, and operated the mill three years, after which he lived a retired life, while one of his sons conducted the farm until it was sold in 1899. He was a Mennonite in religious belief, was a man of good business ability, and was called upon to settle a large number of estates. He was twice married, his first wife being Annie Martin, his second Barbara Kreider, also deceased. In his family were twelve children, seven of whom reached mature years, three of these by the first marriage, and four by the second. They were David, father of John R.; Jacob, who died at the age of nineteen years; Elizabeth; Hettie, wife of John Brackbill, of Soudersburg; Joseph, who is director of the poor of Lancaster county, and a retired resident of Soudersburg; Ezra, an engineer on the Pennsylvania railroad and a resident of Harrisburg; and Barbara, deceased wife of Adam Eby.

David Frantz, senior member of the milling firm of Frantz & Son, of Millersville, was born in East Earl township, Lancaster county, Dec. 9, 1830, and there grew to manhood on the home farm, attending the public schools of the neighborhood. At the age of twenty he commenced learning the miller's trade at the Brook Mill, in East Earl township, with David Martin, where he spent two years, and then assisted his father in the operations of the farm until he was married in 1863. Later he rented a farm at Goodville four years, and one in Salisbury township seven years, after which he had charge of his father's mill for twenty-six years, or until 1900, giving his whole attention to the milling business. With his son John R. he then leased the Groff Mill, or what is more familiarly known as the Normal Mill, at Millersville, which they are now successfully conducting. Since boyhood he has been an active and consistent member of the Mennonite Church, and while a resident of East Earl township served as a member of the school board. He married Maria Rohrer, a daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Landis) Rohrer, and by this union five children have been born: Ida; John R.; Jacob, a miller of Fairton, N. J.; Anna E., who has been teaching in the public schools of Lancaster county since 1897; and Benjamin, who died at the age of seven years, five months and twenty-five days.

John R. Frantz, whose name introduces this review, was born May 24, 1865, in Goodville, but was only two years old when the family moved to Salisbury township, where he was reared and educated. On account of his father being a miller he early became familiar with that business, assisting him in his labors until he started out in life for himself. In 1889 he entered the mill of Michael Moore at Columbia, as assistant, but as the position was not congenial, remained there only a short time, and in 1890 commenced working in the mill of E. E. Hunsecker, with whom he remained three years. During the following three years he was assistant miller for Levan & Sons in Lancaster township, and for two years had charge of the plant as head miller. In 1898 Mr. Frantz leased the John D. Myer's mill at New Danville, a custom and merchants' flouring mill, which he conducted until 1900. On April 7th, of that year, he formed a partnership with his father, under the firm name of Frantz & Son, and leased the Normal Roller Mills, of Millersville, which is also a custom and merchant mill with a capacity of 100 barrels. In this undertaking they are meeting with well-deserved success, for they are thorough millers and capable, enterprising business men.

On Aug. 15, 1889, John R. Frantz was united in marriage with Annie S. Eby, a daughter of Benjamin and Lizzie (Hoover) Eby, and to them have been born six children, namely: Ira E., Roy E., Eva Amanda, Marie Elizabeth, Lillie May and Willis E. The family are members of the Mennonite Church, and Mr. Frantz is a staunch Republican in politics.

GEORGE HIBSHMAN. In the northeastern portion of Lancaster county but few family names date farther back in the settlement thereof, and none that has been connected with it is more of historic interest than the name of Hibshman, of which George Hibshman is a proud and worthy representative—proud in knowing that his ancestors served the State and nation prominently and ably in both civil and military capacities in the early days of our country's history.

John Gerhard Hibshman, the founder of the family in America, was a native of Switzerland, and left the land of his birth in 1732, at the age of nineteen. Five years afterward he returned to his native land for his wife, returning with her to America Sept. 24, 1737, in the ship "Saint Andrew," which sailed on that date from Rotterdam, Holland, bound for New York. Upon landing in the New World, where he was to make for himself and family a home, he came to Lancaster county, and, allured by the natural beauty of the country and the richness of the soil, he purchased the tract of land which is now the farm of Israel Miller, four miles north of the borough of Ephrata, and thereon made his home. He and his wife were blessed with four children, viz.: Wendel is mentioned below; Henry married and moved to Lebanon county, Pa.; Catharine married an Albrecht,

and moved to Selins Grove, Pa.; Elizabeth married Conrad Mentzer.

Wendel Hibshman became the owner of the farm upon the death of his father. He married Hannah, daughter of John and Elizabeth Heffley, who were also among the early settlers of Ephrata township. The farm owned by John Heffley passed to his daughter, Mrs. Hibshman, and from her to her son Jacob, through whose son John it descended to George. To Wendel and Hannah Hibshman were borne five children, viz.: Jacob, Henry, John, Hannah and Mary. Wendel Hibshman was a man of marked ability, and naturally became a leader among the people of eastern Pennsylvania. On the breaking out of the Revolutionary war he espoused the cause of the Colonies, and as major of the 3d Battalion of Pennsylvania troops did good service in the war which ended in the formation of the Republic. After his marriage he became the owner of the farm which had belonged to his wife's family, but on the farm he first bought he passed the remainder of his days, an honored and influential citizen of the commonwealth whose soldiers he had commanded in the struggle for independence. He and his wife were both interred in the family burying-ground on the home farm.

Jacob Hibshman, eldest son of Wendel, became a man of prominence, and added luster to the family name. At an early age he entered the field of politics as a Jeffersonian Democrat, and for years wielded an influence second to none in his part of the State. He was a scrivener, and for many years a justice of the peace. He was a distinguished member of the XVth Congress, having defeated James Buchanan, afterward President of the United States, in the Congressional election of 1820. At one period he was surveyor general of his district, which was composed of the counties of Lancaster, York and Dauphin, and was twelve years associate judge of the Lancaster county court. In 1824, when Gen. LaFayette visited the United States, Mr. Hibshman, then a member of Congress, was chairman of the committee appointed by the citizens of Lancaster county to receive and entertain him, and had the honor of introducing the distinguished Frenchman to the people who met to do him honor. Mr. Hibshman was also prominent in the military affairs of his State, and reached the rank of brigadier general. He married Miss Elizabeth Atkinson, daughter of Thomas and Saloma Atkinson, who bore him the following children: Polly, Lydia, Edward, Jacob, Elizabeth, Amelia and John. Jacob Hibshman inherited the home farm which is now owned by his grandson, George Hibshman, and on which he died May 19, 1852. He was a man of noble qualities and upright character, and passed away honored and esteemed by a wide circle of friends and fellow citizens. His wife's death took place May 4, 1811, and both sleep their last sleep in the Hibshman family burying-ground.

Henry Hibshman, a younger son of Wendel Hibshman, was also a man of prominence in his day