

COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA BIOGRAPHIES

SUGARLOAF TOWNSHIP

From "The History of Columbia and Mountour Counties"
Battle, 1887

THE FRITZ FAMILY

This highly respectable family, so well known, need more than a passing mention. "FRITZ Hill" is known all over Columbia County. The first settler on this historic spot was Philip FRITZ, who came from Philadelphia to this county in 1795; he settled on the east branch of Fishing Creek, near where Thomas FRITZ now lives, in the vicinity of Central, and in 1797 he removed to the old homestead at present occupied by Jesse FRITZ. This land was his wife's heirloom. She was Charlotte DEBORGUR, also a native of Philadelphia. Henry DEBORGUR and his wife Elizabeth had six children: Mary, Charlotte, Henry, Catherine, Esther and Jacob. The tract of land contained 400 acres and was divided among the six children, and Philip, of course, controlled the property left by his wife. On this farm they reared their children, in the woods, away from everything but "real nature," living in obscurity and without any advantages of schools. The children born to them were Henry H., Charles, Philip, Samuel, George, John, Ezekiel, Nancy, Betsey, and Marie; all of whom grew to maturity, each having a large family. The eldest of these children, Henry H., was born June 28, 1786, and in 1814 was married to Margaret ROBERTS, who was born October 18, 1794. Both lived to a good old age at the old FRITZ settlement in what is now Sugarloaf Township. They were the parents of the following named children: John, born July 27, 1815; Charlotta, November 13, 1816; George, May 1, 1818; Jacob H., January 30, 1820; Josiah, February 2, 1822; William, August 30, 1823; Jesse, June 8, 1825; Martha, June 20, 1827; Sarah, May 21, 1829; Mary A., May 2, 1831; Elizabeth, January 25, 1833; Margaret, May 8, 1835; Rachel, April 15, 1839. All of these married except Sarah. George, the third in order of age of these thirteen children, was born at FRITZ Hill, where he spent his early days. He was there married in November, 1841, to Elsie HESS, who was born November 19, 1820, daughter of Henry HESS. In the second year after their marriage they located at their present place of residence. They were the parents of the following named children: Euphemia, born November 9, 1842; Lydia A., August 20, 1844; William, March 29, 1846; Thomas B., October 5, 1849; George W., June 10, 1852; Joe W., October 28, 1854; Susan J., August 5, 1857; Alonzo P., July 20, 1860; Welbert E., September 15, 1864. Mr. and Mrs. George FRITZ are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and he is a local preacher of that denomination. He is an active citizen and has been intrusted by his fellow citizens with a number of township offices. He is the owner of sixty-seven acres of land. Jacob H. is next in order of age to George. He was also born at the old homestead on FRITZ Hill. On the 15th of February, 1846, he was united in marriage with Amanda LAUBACH; they were the parents of the following children: William S, who is a dentist in Michigan; Rosella (HESS), lives in Michigan; LaFayette, who died in infancy; Amandus, married and now a resident of Sugarloaf Township; Theodore, a druggist in Michigan; Alice (METZGAR) lives at Millville; Erastus, a resident of Sugar Loaf Township; Bedell, died at the age of sixteen years; J. A., a dentist and resident of Michigan; C. E., a photographer in Benton; Perry L., a druggist in Michigan; Flora A., a teacher, and John M., who resides with his parents. Jacob H. FRITZ, who spent his whole life at farm work and in his early days used a flax broke, swingling knife, threshing club and other like primitive farming implements. For fifty-two years he swung the grain cradle. In his school days he trudged through snow two and a quarter miles to the log structure where school was held. He received little assistance from outside sources and had to hoe his own row from boyhood. At the age of twenty-one he received his first office and the voters of the township have never suffered him to be without official position since that time,

every office in the township being entrusted to him except that of supervisor. He has also been coroner of Columbia County, and jury commi JESSE FRITZ, farmer, P. O. Cole's Creek, was born June 8, 1825, and was married January 8, 1848, to Miss Sarah DILLS, daughter of George DILLS, Sugarloaf Township, this county, whose wife was Sophia HESS, and the following named children were born to them: John W., November 8, 1848, now in Jackson Township, this county; Andrew L., August 30, 1850, an attorney in Bloomsburg, Penn.; Alvaretta, November 25, 1853 (died November 3, 1857); Drusilla, November 2, 1856, wife of Jasper LEWIS, on Cole's creek; Rachel E., February 5, 1859, wife of William SUTLIFF, of Luzerne County, Penn., and Sheridan S., August 9, 1865. Mrs. FRITZ died March 5, 1881, and he then married, June 29, 1883, Mrs. Rosanna GIRTON, nee Rosanna HESS. Our subject lives on the old homestead, commonly known as "FRITZ Hill," which has been his home since he was a boy. He owns eighty-nine acres of land. In 1880 Mr. FRITZ was chosen justice of the peace, and has since served the township in that capacity. In politics he is a Democrat.(History of Columbia and Montour Counties Pennsylvania, Battle, 1887, pg. 539)

E. S. FRITZ, farmer, P. O. Cole's Creek, was born in Sugarloaf Township, Columbia Co., Penn., January 19, 1832, son of Samuel FRITZ. He lived with his parents until 1858, in which year he was married to Miss C. J., daughter of William SEWARD. Our subject and wife, when first married, lived on Cole's creek, where they owned a farm; then moved to the saw-mill owned by Hughes, and there remained four years; then came to their present place of 107 acres, seven miles north of Benton. Mr. and Mrs. FRITZ have two children: Americas S., a teacher by profession, born March 28, 1860, and Esther A., born March 14, 1866. Our subject is a member of Benton Lodge, No. 746, I. O. O. F. He is town clerk, which position he has held for years; also overseer of the poor, and for six years has been one of the school directors, having served as secretary of the board for three years.(History of Columbia and Montour Counties Pennsylvania, Battle, 1887, pg. 539)