



History of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Volume 3

John Newton Boucher

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1906 edition. Excerpt: ... Park, was Silas A. Riggs, a native of New Jersey. where he was born December, 1813, coming of Puritan lineage. In early life he learned the trade of a machinist and helped to make the first telegraph instruments that were ever constructed, for the use of Professor Morse, at Speedwell. He also made the first American steamboat shaft for ocean-going steamships. He went to Beardstown, Pennsylvania in 1841, where he established a machine shop and foundry which he conducted for some years. He was afterward engaged for a number of years in the milling business at Madison, Pennsylvania, after which he settled on a farm in New Derry where he passed the remainder of his life. For some time he held the office of school director. He was a Republican in politics and was a member of the New (popularly called the Swedenborgian) church. He married Anna Mary McCabe, and their children were: Richard, died at the age of ten, years; three died in infancy; Silas, a farmer in New Derry; Jetur R., lives at Derry Station; Nannie VV., married E. H. Ferry; Robert M., of whom later; Sarah, married D. M. Vineman, and lives at Derry; and Elizabeth, died in childhood. Mr. Riggs died August 21, 1897. Robert M. Riggs, son of Silas A. and Anna Mary (McCabe) Riggs, was born March 2, 1858, in New Derry, and was educated in the common schools. On attaining his majority he settled on the farm where he still lives, and to the cultivation of which he has ever since given his entire attention and his best energies. He has filled the offices of auditor, school director and supervisor, and is a Republican in politics. He married Minnie E., daughter of John V. and Margaret Frye. and their children are: Helen A., married D. W. King; Jetur R.; Nanna Lillian, a graduate...



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