

BIOGRAPHICAL

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RICHARD A. WOLFERSBERGER, manufacturer at Wernersville, was born in Lower Heidelberg township, near Wernersville, Jan. 31, 1832, on the Wolfersberger premises adjoining the planing-mill, son of George and Hannah (Whitman) Wolfersberger.

George Wolfersberger, father of Richard A., was a cabinetmaker and undertaker near Wernersville for forty years. George was a small boy when his father died, and after quitting school at an early age, entered the cabinet-making shop of Anthony Derr, and there learned the business until he became of age when he started for himself. He continued in active business, with a successful career and the high respect of the community, from 1852 until his decease. He died in 1896, at the age of sixty-five years. He married Hannah, daughter of David, and Catharine (Seitzinger) Whitman, and they had five children, namely: Richard A.; Elkana, who died aged thirty-eight years; George, m. to Rosa Yoh; Mary, m. to William C. Feather; and Sallie, who died young.

Mr. Wolfersberger's grandfather was also named George, and he also followed the undertaking business at the same place for a short time, having died while a young man. He married Hannah Fisher, daughter of Peter and Polly (Weber) Fisher, and they had three children: George; Elizabeth, who died single at the age of seventy-nine years; and Mary, who died young.

Richard A. Wolfersberger was educated in the township schools, and when fourteen years of age entered the cabinet-making shop of his father, learning the business, and remained until he became of age. He was then admitted into partnership with his father and brothers, Elkana and George, trading under the name of Wolfersberger & Sons. His father had also established the undertaking business, and the son Richard attended entirely to this branch, continuing to do so from 1861 until his father's decease in 1896, a period of thirty-five years. The planing mill department was added in 1882.

Upon the decease of his father, the firm was re-organized by the surviving son Richard, and the son-in-law William C. Feather, and they have since traded under the name of Wolfersberger & Feather, the former superintending the manufacturing department in the mill and the latter attending to the undertaking department besides assisting in filling the mill orders. They have developed a large and profitable trade, directing the funerals in the community for a considerable distance round about, and supplying the mill work for numerous building operations, not only in their immediate vicinity, but extending to Womelsdorf, Myerstown, Bernville, Sinking Spring, Wyomissing, West Reading and Reading.

Richard A. Wolfersberger married Magdalena Sharman, daughter of Aaron Sharman and Sarah (Grime), and they have five children: George, William, Mary, Alice and Richard.

JACOB BARBEY, proprietor of the "Barbey Hotel and Cafe" at No. 435 Penn Square, Reading, is of German parentage and ancestry, although he himself was born in Buffalo, N. Y., Aug. 9, 1857, son of Jacob Frederick Barbey. He is one of three brothers, the others being John, of Portland, Ore.; and Daniel, of Saratoga Springs, New York.

Mr. Barbey married Catharine C. Fasig, daughter of the late James A. Fasig. Their children were: Paul F. died in infancy; George D., a graduate of the Reading high school, class of 1904, and of Pennsylvania State College, class of 1908, is now engaged as an electrical engineer; Grace Catharine was valedictorian of the class of 1905, Reading high school; Jacob W., valedictorian of the class of 1906, Reading high school, is now a member of the Mining Engineering Department of Pennsylvania State College, class of 1910. The family are connected with Grace Lutheran Church. Mr. Barbey is a member of Teutonia Lodge, No. 367, F. & A. M.; Excelsior Chapter, No. 237, R. A. M.; Reading Commandery, No. 42, K. T.; Reading Lodge of Perfection, 14th degree; and Rajah Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.; Germania Lodge, No.

158, I. O. O. F.; Camp No. 89, P. O. S. of A.; and Reading Castle, No. 49, K. G. E.

MISS SARAH EVE LEHMAN, one of the old and highly esteemed residents of Kutztown, Berks county, who is a business woman of exceptional ability, is a native of the borough of Kutztown, born July 2, 1845, daughter of Jacob and Eve (Copp) Lehman.

Rev. Daniel Lehman, grandfather of Miss Lehman, was a pioneer in American church work and a prominent Lutheran minister of his time. He came to America from Germany on the Pennsylvania packet "Peter Osborn," landing at Philadelphia April 30, 1773, and no doubt would have met the fate of a redemptioner, had not the Rev. Dr. Kunze interested himself in his behalf and paid his passage. Dr. Kunze, having ascertained that he was well grounded in the rudiments of knowledge, employed him as an instructor in his seminary and also gave him instruction in theology. He was licensed to preach the Gospel in 1775, and was ordained a minister of the Lutheran Church in 1778. The Rev. Mr. Lehman for a time lived in Reading, and up to 1780 was the regular pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. In 1780 he removed to Moselem, Richmond township, where he resided for about thirty years, serving at different times many congregations, including Moselem, Kutztown, Hamburg, Rockland, Trexlertown and Grimville. He died Oct. 2, 1810, and was buried under the altar of Moselem Church.

Jacob Lehman, father of Miss Sarah E., was born in Richmond township, April 7, 1790. He was a tinsmith by occupation and an esteemed citizen of Kutztown. He was a soldier of the war of 1812 and a member of Capt. Gabriel Oldt's company. On April 9, 1815, he married Eve Copp, daughter of Conrad and Eve (Knuedler) Copp. He died April 7, 1865. His children were: Daniel, a cooper by trade, died at the age of seventy-seven years; William; Elizabeth died single; Jacob died in infancy; Henrietta died in early womanhood; Catherine m. John Wylie, and her descendants still reside in Kutztown; Jacob, who entered the Civil war as a first lieutenant and rose to the rank of captain, died in Philadelphia about 1890, leaving a widow, Sarah (Thompson) Lehman; Nathan was twice married; Mary m. Edward Andrews, and lives in Pottsville, Schuylkill county; and Sarah Eve is of Kutztown.

Sarah Eve Lehman received her education in the public and private schools of her native locality, and at an early age decided upon a business career. She entered mercantile life as a hat and shoe merchant on Main street, Kutztown, and there she has continued with much success to the present time, her stand having been well and favorably known for over a generation. Miss Lehman has been very prosperous in her business ventures, and is also well-known in Kutztown for her activity in Church and Sunday-school work.

HARRY S. CRAUMER, a well-known stenographer and court reporter, was born in Lebanon, Pa., July 2, 1879. His parents were Rev. L. W. and Mariah (Smith) Craumer.

Rev. L. W. Craumer, after spending the early part of his life in the service of the United Brethren denomination, came to Reading in the early nineties as pastor of the Salem Church, where he remained until he retired from the ministry, in 1892. He died Nov. 8, 1900, at the age of seventy-three. His wife, Mariah, was a daughter of George S. Smith, a farmer of Union county. They became the parents of a large family, as follows: Minnie and George, both of whom died in early childhood; Milizena, who lived to be but twenty-four; Albert S., a merchant of Lebanon; Elmer E., an attorney-at-law, of Pittsburg; Clara, wife of H. B. Leavens, of Kansas City, Mo.; Elizabeth, in the service of the Baptist Church, at Kodiak, Alaska; and Harry S.

Harry S. Craumer attended the public schools of Lebanon. At an early age, however, he was obliged to discontinue his studies, and go to work to contribute towards the support of his parents. Soon after the opening of the