

of the finest locations in the state; a free delivery system was introduced, and it was transferred from the third to the second class, the salary being increased to \$2,400.

One of the first members of the Church of the Holy Infancy, our subject is active in its work and cherishes a very kindly feeling toward the Moravians and other Protestants of this region who were so liberal, both in thought and in a more practical way, when this church was constructed. Since 1868 he has been a Republican, having voted for President Lincoln for his second term. He is one of the most aggressive Republicans in the county, and has been active in local committees. For nine years he was a School Director, and served for a number of years as President of the board. The schools were in a dilapidated condition when he first became interested in the matter, but now the educational facilities of the place can rank with the best in the state. In 1875 he erected his pleasant home on the corner of Locust and Fourth Streets, and has also built several other houses in South Bethlehem.

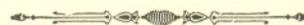


**R**UBEN P. FEHNEL, formerly Commissioner of Northampton County, and at present a farmer and stock-raiser of Palmer Township, was born February 13, 1833, in the county where he still resides. Here also were born his parents, Peter and Lydia (Dilliard) Fehnel, and hither in an early day came his grandfather, Conrad Fehnel, the founder of the family in the state, and one of the pioneer settlers of Moore Township.

School advantages were somewhat limited when our subject was a boy, but he availed himself to the utmost of those offered him, and gained a practical education that fitted him for contact with the world. As soon as old enough he began to aid in tilling the soil, and with advancing years increased responsibilities came to him. He remained beneath the parental roof, engaged in general farm work, until he attained his majority, at which time he began to learn the trade of a carpenter. This occupation he followed for a number of years, though his time has been devoted mainly to agriculture.

Removing in the spring of 1862 from Moore to Palmer Township, Mr. Fehnel has since resided in this part of the county. In 1873 he settled upon the farm where he has since resided. This place comprises one hundred and ten acres of land, the larger part of which has been placed under a high state of cultivation, so that at each harvest it yields large and valuable crops. While he has devoted his attention principally to the cultivation of his property, he has found time to give to the consideration of public matters, and is well informed concerning the issues of the age.

Among the local offices held by Mr. Fehnel is that of School Director of Palmer Township. He has also served as Road Supervisor, and for a period of three years filled the position of Commissioner of Northampton County. His wife was Hannah, daughter of George Marsh, late of Moore Township, but now deceased. Six children were born to this union, of whom five are now living: George; Thomas; Ida, who is the wife of Thomas Kunkle; Amanda and Owen P. Clementine is deceased. A Lutheran in religious belief, Mr. Fehnel belongs to the church situated on Bushkill Creek, in Forks Township, and in that congregation is serving as an Elder.



**O**LIVER K. JONES, a well known and representative citizen and retired agriculturist of Freemansburg, is a native of Northampton County. He was born November 26, 1838, to Joseph B. and Eliza (Keck) Jones, the former a native of this county, and the latter born in Lehigh County. John Jones, the great-grandfather of our subject, was said to have been a native of Wales, and was one of the early settlers of the Lehigh Valley, having come to America when a young man.

Our subject was reared to manhood in his native county, receiving his education in the common schools near his home, and later attending the private schools of Bethlehem. He has been a life-long agriculturist, economical and industrious, and therefore prosperous, and now owns one hundred and twenty-six acres of well cultivated and finely improved land, where he still resides, though living a retired life. He has served as School Director



for several years, and has held other local offices. In politics he has the interests of the Republican party at heart, and is active in public affairs, both national and local.

Mr. Jones was married, February 3, 1863, to Miss Clara Oberly, a daughter of John S. and Catherine (Shimer) Oberly. The mother is still living and is in her seventy-eighth year. The parents of Mrs. Jones were natives of Northampton County, and her great-grandfather Jones was a native of Wales, having come to America in an early day. He settled in the Lehigh Valley and took up a tract of land, which he cultivated, and on which he reared his family, spending the remainder of his life with his children in that place.

Our subject and his estimable wife are active members of the Lutheran Church at Freemansburg, and are deeply interested in the cause of Christianity. Mr. Jones is an Elder in the church and is well known in this locality. Two sons have been born to him and his wife, Harry O. and Charles, both of whom are employed in the War Department of the United States Government at the Bethlehem Iron Works in Bethlehem, under Captain McNutt.



**A**DAM LAUBACH. Seigfried's Bridge, Northampton County, takes its name from its first settler, Colonel Siegfried, a Revolutionary officer, who died in 1794. This town is in the richest valley in Pennsylvania, where only enterprise and industry are known from Mauch Chunk to Easton. In a radius of three miles eight large cement mills give wealth to the business people of Seigfried's, and in consequence of this mammoth industry the town rolls in prosperity. Foremost as a business man and middle-aged citizen is Adam Laubach, who for forty years has occupied the large mercantile house as a part of his father's legacy. He was born in Northampton County, November 9, 1827, and is the son of Peter Laubach, Sr., and his estimable wife, Elizabeth (Nellig) Laubach. His paternal great-grandfather,

with a brother, and a sister, Marguerite Laubach, sailed from the Palatinate, in Germany, on the ship "Queen Elizabeth," Capt. Alexander Hope the ship's master, and landed in Philadelphia September 16, 1738.

Reinhardt Laubach, the brother, settled in Hellertown, Lower Saucon Township, where he now lies buried. From this branch of the family William Laubach, the merchant prince of Easton, the county seat of Northampton County, is descended. The son of Reinhardt Laubach, Peter by name, moved to Kreidersville, Pa., in 1755. From him the vast Laubach family traces its descent. The Laubach family is noted for powerful physique, and in the family the occupation of blacksmithing and the mercantile business have been handed down from generation to generation.

As a youth Mr. Laubach attended a public school, and was instructed in the studies that were taught in the early part of the century. At the age of eighteen years he entered the office of his father's mill at Laubachsville (now Northampton), and assumed the management of this department of the mill. He remained thus engaged until 1858, when he came to Seigfried's Bridge and established his present business, which he has successfully conducted. From his father he inherited principles of strict honesty and integrity, and, being very philanthropic and public spirited, his influence has been an important factor in the development of the town. Besides conducting a large mercantile business, he has a lumber-yard, coal-yard and sand depot. In addition to this, he is a large real-estate owner, and possessor of a fine farm.

A man of devout character, Mr. Laubach is a consistent member of St. John's Reformed Church, which his father helped to build. In politics he is an ardent Republican, and has been Postmaster of the town since 1858. He never aspired to office, but served for fifteen years as School Director, an honored and responsible position. He is the son-in-law of Judge David Laury, of Laury's Station, whose sketch is elsewhere presented. Further mention is made of Mrs. Laubach's family history in the sketch of Alexander C. P. Laury, which appears on another page of this volume.



The eldest daughter is the wife of G. H. Klepinger, a prominent wholesale grocer and real-estate owner of Allentown. The eldest son is an energetic merchant and prominent Mason. The third daughter is the wife of a clergyman of the Reformed Church. Two of the family are still unmarried and reside at home, the youngest son, who, like his brother, is an advocate of Freemasonry, assisting his father in the mercantile business.



**J**ONAS F. MOYER, who was appointed by President Cleveland to the position of Postmaster of Catasauqua in the spring of 1894, is making a good record in this capacity. He is a leading Democrat, having been one of the workers in the ranks of his party, and for the past twelve years has been a correspondent for the Allentown *Daily Item*.

Born at Macungie, in this county, June 2, 1850, J. F. Moyer is the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Mertz) Moyer, the father a native of Upper Milford, and the mother of Macungie. The paternal grandfather was born in the Keystone State, but his father was a native of Holland, who became one of the early settlers of this county. Samuel Moyer was a carpenter by trade, and assisted in building the locks in the canal, and also erected the first brick house in the borough of Macungie. Later he owned a slateyard, and was a partner in the foundry of Miller & Moyer. In other enterprises he was also active. Though now seventy-seven years of age he takes a great interest in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and is living a retired life in the borough which has been his home since boyhood. His wife was a daughter of Henry Mertz, a native of the same place, who was a broom manufacturer.

In his parents' family, which comprised eight children, Jonas F. Moyer is the fourth in order of birth, all but two of the family still living. He was reared in the place of his birth, attending the public schools, and about 1861 commenced his

active career, his first work being in a brickyard. Afterward he worked on a farm in the vicinity, and then on one in Bucks County, during which time he attended school to some extent. We next find him a clerk in a store at Macungie, from where he went to Philadelphia, obtaining employment in a grocery. Once more returning to his childhood's home, he engaged as a clerk in the same store, but about 1869 he began teaching at Alburdis, and taught there for one term, following the same business for some seven or eight terms in the vicinity of Macungie. During this time he attended the Keystone Normal, working his own way, and graduating June 1, 1877, with the degree of Bachelor of Elements. Two years later he received the degree of Master of Elements. After this he resumed teaching, and the following two years taught at Ironton, and later for one year at Sand Springs. Thus the years passed, his time being mainly given to teaching until 1883. In 1879 he took the First Ward School in Allentown, which he taught for a year, and then for the same length of time taught the school in North Whitehall Township, near Unionville. After leaving Unionville he came to Catasauqua, teaching here for two years, when he changed his vocation and became bookkeeper for William Yunger in his flourmill. At the end of two years he resigned his position in the mill to engage in the life-insurance business, which he has since continued in with the exception of some five winters when he taught the Faust Grammar School, and in Allen Township. While in the life-insurance business Mr. Moyer represented the Mutual Benefit Association of Newark, N. J., and in its interests has traveled considerably in adjoining counties.

In this city Mr. Moyer was married, in 1878, to Miss Celia R. Troxell, who was born in Washington Township, of this county, and is a daughter of E. A. Troxell, who is engaged in merchandising in Catasauqua. To Mr. and Mrs. Moyer were given seven children, five of whom are living, as follows: Samuel E., Ida E., William A., Russell F. and Ella May. Mary E. and Solon F. are deceased.

In January, 1894, Mr. Moyer was given the preference over about twenty-three applicants, and received the appointment of Postmaster, taking