

Documents and biography pertaining to the settlement and progress of Stark County, Illinois. M. A Leeson (Chicago: M. A. Leeson & Co.) 1887

Nathan Snare was born in Huntingdon county Pa., on February 3, 1826; is the son of John P. and Esther (Baker:) Snare, the former a native of Virginia, the latter of Pennsylvania, being one of the old Quaker families, born near Philadelphia. The ancestors of John P. Snare were from Germany, coming to this country at an early day, the father of John P. serving as a teamster in the War of 1812. Esther Baker also had one brother, Joseph Baker, who was a captain in the same war. John P. Snare removed to Pennsylvania while he was yet a boy and engaged in farming. He was married June 8, 1820, to Miss Esther Baker, by whom he had a family of seven children, four of whom still live namely, Nancy, widow of Alexander Kissenger, residing in Penn township, this county; Nathan Snare of Toulon township: James and John are married, both residing in Penn township, this county. The mother of this family died in 1840. Mr. Snare remarried in 1844 to Mrs. Nancy Gharrett (Kurfman), by whom he had a family of six children, four of whom still live – Cyrus C., married living in Minnesota; Khesa S., married, living in Penn township, this county; Edwin, married, living in Valley township, this county; Albert, married living in Nebraska. John P Snare removed to Illinois in 1847 and settled in Penn township, where he purchased four hundred acres of land and engaged in farming; he remained so engaged until his death, which occurred in 1872, his widow, Mrs. Nancy Snare, still residing there. In political matters he was in early days a whig, but when the republican party was organized he embraced that platform and remained a through-going member of that party until his death. He was at his death a member of the M. P. church, with which he died in full communion. Nathan Snare passed his younger years on the farm and attending common school. In the year 1846 he removed to Illinois, locating in Penn township and engaged in farming. In 1850 he married Miss Lydia A. Davidson, daughter of Chaldron and Abbey (Stark) Davidson, both natives of Luzerne county, Pa. To this marriage three children were born, one of whom still lives namely, Lily, now residing with her husband in Kansas. Mrs. Lydia Snare died in 1865, and he was remarried in 1866 to Miss Isabella H. Williamson, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Cook) Williamson, both natives of Pennsylvania. To this marriage eight children were born namely, Hattie, now living in Kansas; Charles J., John R., Ernest M, Laura B., Walter D., Albert E., and Edith. The subject of our sketch was engaged in farming in this county until 1867, when he removed to Missouri, remaining there for seven years engaged in farming. In 1874 he returned to Illinois and purchased land in Toulon township on section 12, where he now resides. In connection with his farm interests he also has several coal mines on this land. In politics he was an early day abolitionist, and when the republican party was formed he accepted their platform, but of late years has rather affiliated with the greenback party. He is not a member of any church, but lends his support to the M. P. church. He was a member of the Union League and was a staunch supporter of all things pertaining to the benefit of his county.

Page 625.

Samuel Crum, born in Huntingdon county. Pa., April 6, 1825, is the son of Frederic and Catherine (Snare) Crum, both Pennsylvanians; the former born in 1794, was the son of a German settler, the latter, daughter of a German settler also. To them nine children were born, eight of whom are still living, namely : Samuel, of Penn township; Daniel, of Huntingdon county. Pa.; Nancy, wife of Byron Haack, of

that county ; Ellen, Mrs. Joseph T. Fisher, of Johnson county. Mo.; Reuben H., a resident of Pennsylvania; Margaret, Mrs. John Clark, of Huntingdon county, Pa.; George W., also residing there, and Ann, Mrs. John C. Lytle, residing in that county. The father died there in 1870, and the mother in 1877. Both were of the Pennsylvania agricultural class. Samuel Crum in early years was a woodchopper, schoolboy, miller and farmer — about all a pioneer boy could be. In 1818 he married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Henry and Margaret (Wise) Hess, and paternal granddaughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Zimmerman) Hess, Germans, Jacob being born in 1781, died in 1869, and Elizabeth, born in 1789, died in 1859. Her mother was born in 1768, died April 8, 1857, and her father, Henry, born in 1758, died January 27, 1837. After Mr. Crum's marriage he became a farmer, came to this township in 1859, engaged in grain and stock-growing, purchased eighty acres on section 20 in 1869, came to reside on it in 1873, added eighty acres on section 17, erected a fine farm-house, and has resided here down to the present time. Their children are: Margaret, wife of R. S. Snare; Winfield B., married, residing in this township, and John W., a druggist at Castleton. Mr. Crum and his two sons control 263 acres here. He has served as supervisor one year, assessor three years, school director and in minor offices. Both he and wife are members of the Snareville Methodist church. W. B. Crum is the genial clerk of the township school board, and like his father, one of the most popular men in the township. The farms and homes which this family made here are the results of their own labors since 1859. Their reputation rests on industry and integrity.

Page 636.

John Snare, son of John P. and Esther (Baker)Snare, was born at the old home in Pennsylvania, January 5, 1828, in 1847 came to Illinois and located in the Penn township. His first land purchase was made on section 12, Toulon, of 200 acres. On March 4, 1854, he married Miss Maria T. Holgate, daughter of Judge Holgate, (whose history is given in this chapter), and to them five children were born, of whom three are living, Wilden P., married, residing in Toulon township; Wilna P., wife of Watt P. Mansker, now of Kansas, and Wilbur P., married, residing in Penn township. Since his marriage Mr. Snare has added 400 acres to his original purchase, aggregating 600 acres in Toulon and Penn townships. He has always been a true Republican, a part of the time an unconditional Abolitionist. He was elected justice of the peace for Penn township, but moving to Toulon, did not hold this office, and was supervisor of Penn. Religiously, he is one of the old members of the Methodist Protestant church, and in school work, an earnest friend of the system and conscientious official of his district for years. A reference to the history of Nathan Snare, given in the chapter on Toulon, contains much of the history of the family in this county.

Pages 636 - 637

James Snare, son of John P. and Esther (Baker) Snare, was born in Huntingdon county, Pa., July 7, 1827. He attended school and worked on the home farm until thirteen years of age, when he was indentured to a tailor, who did not at all suit the young aspirant for this trade, so that he was transferred to the shop of J. M. Cline, also a tailor combined with the calling of a Dutch Winebrenarian preacher. For two years he labored with this man, when he entered the employ of John P. Gable, a tailor and Methodist class leader. Subsequently he worked at his trade at Newburg, purchased an interest in the Kissinger tailor shop, which he held about four years. He married Miss Rebecca, daughter of Amos and Alley (Baker) Clark, November 13, 1845. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania. Her mother was daughter of Captain John Baker of the War of 1812 who as a private soldier led a forlorn hope against the English,

which resulted in the victory for the Patriots. For this deed of valor he was commissioned on the field. Mr. Snare continued at the trade after marriage, and also sold goods on commission. For years he was connected with the state militia, held two commissions as First Lieutenant from Governor Johnson of Pennsylvania. Resigning his lieutenancy in the fall of 1852 and selling his business interests, he migrated to this township, purchased sixty acres on section 18, where he resided five years, when he traded his home and tract for his brother's property, and in 1860 moved to his new farm of 118 acres on section 7, to which he has since added 197 acres, giving a total acreage of 315. In connection with his large farm and stock interests he also carries on the auctioneer's business. Of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Snare, six are living: Millie J., widow of George McClyment, now residing at Wyoming; Martha L., Mrs. Thomas Dryden, of West Jersey; John Charles Fremont, married, resident of Buffalo county, Neb.; Lincoln C., Jesse and James, residing with parents. Mr. Snare's first vote was cast of Fremont. In 1859 he was elected justice of the peace and holds the office down to the present. In 1886 he was elected supervisor, has served as school trustee of Penn, also collector. For over forty-six years he has been a member of the Methodist Protestant church, of which his wife is also a member. During the war he belonged to the Union League. At the breaking out of the rebellion he helped to raise a company and was elected Captain. But as more companies were offered than could be received, the members of this company went off and joined other companies that were received. For over thirty-four years he has played a complete part in the drama of Stark's progress.

Page 637

R. S. [Rhese Scott] Snare, born in Huntingdon county, Pa., January 27, '47, is the son of John P. and Mrs. Nancy (Gharrett-Kurfman) Snare, both natives of that State, as related in the history of the Snare family in the chapter on Toulon, Mrs. Snare is the daughter of David and Susan (Barnett) Kurfman, whose ancestors came from Germany to Pennsylvania, where they were born. R. S. Snare came to Penn township with the family in '47. Was raised and educated here, and during his whole life, with the exception of four years, has been identified with the agricultural and stock interests of the county. His first land purchase was fifty-four acres on section eighteen, and forty acres on section twenty-four. His marriage with Miss Margaret A. Crum was celebrated September 19, '73. This lady is a daughter of Samuel Crum, whose family history is given in this chapter. To this marriage two children were born, one of whom only is living. In '78 the family moved to Jefferson county, Colorado, where for three years he was engaged in agriculture, and for one year traveled, in company with his wife, through that country, visiting every point of interest, if not every settlement then existing there. While there he served as director of schools, and gave the name – Rockland – to district twenty-three of Jefferson county. In this township he has also served as director of schools. Politically he has always been a Republican, and in religious affairs a supporter of the Methodist Protestant Church at Snareville.