

JONATHAN ROW, who ably edited at different times during his lifetime three English and two German newspapers in Westmoreland, Somerset and Indiana counties, this State, was one of the founders of the Republican part in western Pennsylvania. His distinguished career as an editor and his valuable services as the earliest historian of Indiana county, require that space be allotted on these pages for his life-record. Jonathan Row was born four miles north of Greensburg, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, June 2, 1802, and was the fifth of six sons born unto Andrew and Elizabeth (Heintzelman) Row. The Rows are of German extraction and were among the early settlers in the vicinity of New York city. One of their descendants was Andrew Row (father), who was born in Northumberland and afterwards removed to Westmoreland county, Pa., where he died. He was thrice married and his second wife was Elizabeth Heintzelman, a daughter of George Heintzelman, who was a native of Germany and settled in Northampton county, Pa., where he reared a family of four sons and two daughters, and one of these sons was the grandfather of Major General Samuel P. Heintzelman. Andrew and Elizabeth (Heintzelman) Row were the parents of ten children: six sons and four daughters. Jonathan Row was reared in a day of limited educational advantages and received only one term of three months in a subscription school in which he learned to read. He learned the trade of bricklayer, which he followed for several years, was then engaged in the mercantile business at Adamsburg, in his native county, and in 1836 was appointed register and recorder of Westmoreland county, Pa. He was reappointed in 1836 and served a second term. In 1838 he entered upon his great life-work of journalism in western Pennsylvania, by establishing a German paper in Greensburg, Pa., which was the *Republikaner*, and then became the *Sentinel*. In 1842 he disposed of the latter paper and purchased the *Herald* (English) and *Republican* (German) newspapers of Somerset county, Pa., which he edited until 1850. In 1847 he was elected treasurer of Somerset county, and three years later a stroke of paralysis prevented his appointment, by President Taylor, as consul to Hamburg, Germany. Four years later, having recovered from his paralytic stroke (1852) he purchased the *Indiana Register*, and after the defeat of Winfield Scott had sounded the death-knell of the whig party, Jonathan Row continued earnest and zealous in that opposition to democracy that eventually crystallized into republicanism. In the the formation, growth and progress of the Republican party in Indiana county, he was a potent factor and an indefatigable worker. A second stroke of paralysis in 1858 finally incapacitated him from work, and the next year he retired from business and left the control of his paper to his sons, George, Amos and Augustus Row. While prominent and conspicuous in political affairs, yet in another field he deserves great credit for the large amount of historical matter, covering a wide range of adventure and experience by the early settlers of western Pennsylvania, and the formation and development of Indiana county, which he secured and saved from oblivion by publication in his several newspapers. In 1831, and again some years later, he was afflicted with cataract of both eyes and had two operations performed for the relief of that trouble.

He was married in 1821 to Maria C. Miniam, who is a member of the Lutheran church and was born in 1801. They reared to manhood and womanhood a family of eleven children; Samuel J.; Martha, relict of Rev. W. S. Emery, late of Frenchtown, N. J., deceased; E. Elizabeth, who was intermarried with J. H. Benford, late of Johnstown, Pa., deceased (Mrs. Benford was the proprietress of the ill-gated "Hulbert House" of Johnstown, which was swept away by the terrible flood of May 31, 1889, and she and

one son and two daughters perished in the wreck); Catherine, relict of H. B. Woods, a lawyer late of Reading, Pa., deceased; Simon B.; Jane Mary, wife of Dr. W. H. McCormick, of Cumberland, Md.; George; Amos; Augustus; Herman, who died in 1880; and Charles Henry. One other, J. Franklin, died in infancy in 1838. Mrs. Row is a daughter of John George Miniam, who was born on what was then the French side of the Rhine River. He was a tailor by trade, came to Westmoreland county, where he followed farming, and died in 1856, aged eighty-nine years.

Jonathan Row was a member of the Lutheran church and died February 22, 1866, when in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

One well acquainted with him in life has written of him after death:

“In looking over the files of papers issued from his press, the reader will observe, everywhere, the evidences of originality, intelligence, thought, prudence and uprightness as conspicuous characteristics of the editorial management. When the great southern rebellion burst upon the land, the old man’s enthusiasm burned with intense ardor for the salvation of his country, and at all times and under all circumstances, his voice was for maintaining the unity of the states, and upholding the supremacy of the national authority.”