

PETER FRECH , ex-county commissioner of Indiana county, and a retired farmer of Georgeville, was born on the Rhine, in Prussia, Germany, Nov. 24, 1842, son of Peter Frech.

Peter Frech, the father, was born on the Rhine, in Prussia, Dec. 25, 1810, and there married Anna Mary Jacoby. A wheelwright by trade, he followed that calling, but as his family increased he felt that there were not enough opportunities in his native land, so left Germany in 1847 and came to America, making the voyage in a sailing vessel. Owing to the fact that this was an old ship, an accident the first day compelled the captain to return to land for repairs, so that the journey consumed five weeks. Eventually the little party landed at Philadelphia, Pa., in July, 1847, and proceeded to Indiana county, Pa., where the Frechs had a relative. She lived in Rayne township, not far from Dixonville. They located on 126 acres of land, which they bought for \$300, and built a log cabin. The property was in the midst of heavy timber, and it was hard work to clear off the land, so in 1855 this farm was sold, and another was purchased near Kelleysburg, containing 135 acres. On this place the father built a frame house and substantial barn and made other improvements, so as to bring his property into a good state. He died upon the farm of his daughter, Mrs. Stormer, Oct. 1, 1882, aged nearly seventy-two years, and is buried in Grove Chapel cemetery. He was a consistent member of the Lutheran Church, of which he was deacon and elder. His wife died in April, 1882, and is buried by his side; she also was a Lutheran. Mr. Frech was a Lincoln Republican, but later became a democrat. He was a man who always commanded universal respect. The children born to him and his wife were: Catherine, widow of Charles Stormer, now residing in Indiana, Pa.; Peter; George, who lives on the old homestead in Rayne township; Mary Elizabeth, widow of John Lemp; and John, who is a farmer of Rayne township.

Peter Frech was only four and a half years old at the time of the family immigration, and could not speak English when they settled in Rayne township. He had to walk three miles to get to school, but in spite of his disadvantages learned English and at the same time made himself useful on the farm, remaining at home until he was twenty-four years old. At that time he settled on ninety-two acres in Rayne township, fifteen acres of which were improved. After four years of hard work upon this property he sold it at a profit, and then went to North Mahoning township, one mile east of Georgeville, and bought 200 acres known as the John Knight farm. With the possession of this farm came his opportunity to develop into a successful agriculturist, and he made good use of it, improving his property in every way, until he had one of the best farms in his township. He continued to operate this land until 1899, when he sold sixty acres, now owning 140 acres, and moved to Georgeville; he oversees the farming of his land, his son being in charge.

During the Civil war Mr. Frech gave practical demonstration of his feeling for his adopted country by enlisting in August 1862, in Company I, 135th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, under Capt. J. A. Kinter and Col. James R. Porter. He served nine months, and was honorably discharged at the close of his enlistment, in June, 1863. Still feeling that he ought to give further service, he

reenlisted in March, 1865, in Company F, 74th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, under Capt. John Kinter and Colonel Holorger. Promoted to second sergeant he continued to serve as such, and was discharged Aug. 27, 1865, at Clarksburg, W. Va., where he had been stationed, one more returning home with the record of having acquitted himself bravely and gallantly.

In 1899 Mr. Frech was elected county commissioner, the other members of the board being James K. Dick and Thomas P. Stevens, and served for one term of three years, during which period several bridges were built and extensive improvements made in the courthouse. He is a Democrat, and was school director for ten years in north Mahoning, and for two and a half years held the same office in the independent district of Georgeville. He has also been on the election board as inspector, and has been collector of taxes, in every way proving himself efficient and public-spirited, a man of force of character and strength of purpose. The Lutheran Church of Trade City holds his membership, and he has served it as elder for many years, being very active in the good work of his denomination. The G.A.R. post of Punxsutawney has in him an enthusiastic member.

In addition to his farming interests, Mr. Frech has been quite prominent as a breeder of fine horses, having owned the trotting mare Bell Onward, and now owns Onward Higgison, which he raised.

On May 2, 1867, Mr. Frech was married to Rebecca Kimple, of Rayne township, a daughter of John and Mary (Sigler) Kimple, old settlers of Indiana county, and people of prominence in their day. She died Jan. 11, 1913, and is buried at Gilgal Church. Mrs. Frech was also a member of the Lutheran Church, seconding her husband's efforts in the advancement of its interests. Mr. and Mrs. Frech had children as follows: Mary Levina, who married C. M. Wortman, proprietor of the "Clawson House," of Indiana, Pa.; twins, a son and a daughter, who died in infancy; George, who is at home; and Annie A., who married Fred Jamison, of Washington, pa., and has a daughter, Mary Jane.

Mr. Frech has attained all his prosperity through natural ability and a willingness to work. No labor was too hard for him, and he always saved his money, so that when opportunity offered he was able to invest wisely and profitably.