

BIOGRAPHY OF  
JACOB SHEETZ  
(1843 - 1922)

(Reference: A CENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF CRAWFORD COUNTY OHIO, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago 1902, Pages 73 - 76.)

The history of a state, as well as that of a nation, is chiefly the chronical of the lives and deed who have conferred honor and dignity on society. The world judges the character of a community by those of its representative citizens, and yields its tribute of admiration and respect for the genius or learning or virtue of those whose works and actions constitute the record of the state's prosperity and pride, and it is the record that offers for our consideration the history of men, who in their characters for proity and benevolence and the kindly virtues, as well as for integrity in the affairs of life, are ever affording to the young worthy examples for their regard and emulation. Therefor it is proper that a just celebrety be given to those men who are distinguished in their day and generation, that the living may enjoy their approbation of

their contemporaries, as well as that of a greatful posterity.

Jacob Sheetz certainly deserves mention amongh the representative men of Crawford County. He stands at the head of the firm of Jacob Sheetz & Brother, bankers and merchants, and the influence of his business activity is widely and beneficially felt. He was born in New Washington September 26, 1843, being one of the six children of John A. and Margaret (Donnenwirth) Sheetz. As the name indicates the family is of German Lineage.

The father of our subject (*John A. Sheetz*) was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, December 3 1809, and in 1824, when only twenty-one years of age, crossed the Atlantic to the new world in company with an older sister. After landing in New York City they made their way to Ohio, locating in Colombiana County, wherethey took up their abode. For some years the father of our subject was employed as a farm hand and at various occupations that would yield him an honest living, receiving but six dollars per month in the first capacity. His sister having married and removed to Crawford County, he determined to go to Dayton, where he secured employment in a livery stable. He was very fond of

horses and prospered in this new line of business. About 1830 he came to Crawford County to visit his sister, and, being pleased with the locality, determined to remain. Therefor he purchased ninty acres of land in Auburn township, which track includes the present site of the village of Waynesburg. He erected a log cabin , planted an orchard and began the task of clearing the land and cultivating crops.

He (*the father, John A. Sheetz*) was three times married. His first wife was Miss Margaret Weisenbacher whom he wedded in Dayton in May, 1836, and after a short married life she died in July of the same year. Subsequently (October 1837) he was joined in wedlock with Miss Margaret Weaver, of Auburn township, Crawford County, and this union was blessed with one child, Catherine Agetta, now the wife of William H. Donnenwirth, a resident farm of Stark County, Ohio. The second wife lived but little more than a year, and in 1842 John A. Sheetz married Mrs. Margaret Hesse, the widow of Ehregott Hesse and the daughter of George Donnenwirth. She was a native of Alsace Germany. Her father emmigrated to America in about 1829, locating in Stark County Ohio, whence he came to Crawford County, taking up his abode in Cranberry township, three miles west

of New Washington, and after the death of her first husband she carried on the business until her marriage to Mr. Sheetz, when he took up his abode in the town and assumed the management of the business , conducting the same until his death, which occurred December 7, 1889.

The Democracy received his (*the father's, John A. Sheetz's*) political support , but he never sought office for reward for public service. He was, however, the first postmaster of New Washington, and for several years prior to the establishment of the postoffice at this place he walked once each week to a point four miles west of the town in order to meet the stage and get the mail for the people residing in the locality. As an accomodation for his business patrons and his fellow townsmen residing in this locality he continued to act as postmaster for many years.

BY his third marriage, Mr. Sheetz had six children, four of whom are yet living: John H. a banker and merchant, who is in partnership with his brother; Louise P., wife of John M. Guiss, of New Washington; Jacob, of this review; and Caroline, wife of John L. Assenheimer, a lumber dealer and contractor of Bucyrus.

Jacob Sheetz had the refining influence of a good home and the advantage of education priveleges in his youth. Having pursued his education in the common schools, he supplemented his preliminary course of study in the Bucryus high school, in Dekalb college and in a private institution of learning in Cleveland. From his sixteenth year he worked upon his father's farm during the summer months, becoming familiar with all of the duties that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. Later, however, his father insisted on his entering the store, and when he was nineteen years of age he took his place behind the counter, there serving as a clerk. He soon manifested a superior aptitude for business, and six months later he had complete charge of the enterprise. In less that a year the bills were made out the John A. Sheetz & Son, although this was unauthorized by a business partnership. In 1866, however, our subject purchased a half interest in the store, and in 1874 his brother John H., purchased his father's interest, and the firm of Jacob Sheetz & Brother has since carried on operation. Not long after our subject established the Farmer's Exchange Bank, under the name of John A. Sheetz Company. Both branches of his business have contributed in considerable measure to the general prosperity of the

community, and at the same time have returned an excellent revenue to the partners.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1867, Mr. Sheetz was married to Miss Elizabeth A. Guiss, a native of Cranberry township and a daughter of Abraham Guiss, one of the prominent farmers of the community, now deceased. He was a native of Columbiana County, Ohio. This marriage has been blessed with three children: Ada M., the oldest, is the wife of John Seifert, proprietor of an elevator at New Washington; George W., who is a graduate of the New Washington high school and of the Spencerian Business College, of Cleveland Ohio, is now attending the Ohio State University, preparing himself for the practice of law; and Emma L., the youngest, is also a graduate of the high school of New Washington and is now the wife of Martin L. Belsr, D.D., of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In his political affiliations our subject is a democrat, and for ten or more years has served as a member of the town council, exercising his official prerogatives in support of all measures for the public good. For fifteen years he has served on the school board and was one of its members when the present school building was erected. He holds membership in the Lutheran church, and was a trustee

serving on the finance committee when the present church was built. He is one of the most public-spirited and progressive of the county, and he has contributed in large measure to the upbuilding and improvement of this part of the state.

When he became a member of the mercantile firm of which he is now the head, he assumed an indebtedness of three thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars. The year following he erected a residence and thus increased his indebtedness, but in a short time, owing to his capable business methods and management, he was enabled to pay off all obligations and has continually added to his wealth. He is a man of whom the most envious can scarcely grudge success, so well has he earned it, so well has he used it, so entirely does he lack pride of purse. He is kind, unaffected and approachable, and every comer has a claim on his courteous attentin. There has been nothing sensational in his career, every step has been thoughtfully and deliberately made, and every advance has been at the cost of hard and self-denying labor.

Born to lead, his great experience makes him a safe councilor and guide. He stands today in his mature years a

strong man, strong in the consciousness of well-spent  
years, strong to plan and perform, strong in his credit and  
good name and a worthy example for young men to pattern  
after.

The End

(Note: This text was entered and edited (italica) by Karl  
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