

JUNIATA  
WILLS

JOHN COOVER.

(Deceased.)

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John Coover, who was one of the earliest settlers, deserves more than a passing notice. Prominent in church, society and business, he and his descendents have always been people of note. He was one of the founders of Mechanicsburg, and was descended from the German family named "Kobar", afterward changed to Coover--who emigrated to this country as early as <sup>1930</sup> ~~1760~~. Soon after this date his grandfather, Gideon Coover, bought a large tract of land, being of the "Manor on Conodoguinet", situated by the Cedar Spring, south of Shiremanstown, Cumberland County, Penna. One of his sons, George Coover, was married on October 22nd, 1764, to Elizabeth Mohler, by Rev. Nicholas Hornell, of York, Minister of the High German Lutheran Church, of which both were members. They lived on the plantation at Cedar Spring and had five sons and four daughters--George, Jr., Henry, Elizabeth, Susannah, Catherine, Anne, Michael, Jacob, and John the subject of this sketch, who was born February 22nd, 1787. His early life was spent on his father's farm, where he attended such schools as his day afforded. About 1816 or 1817 he came to Mechanicsburg, and opened the first important store in that place, becoming thereafter a successful merchant. Continuing therein engaged until 1849, when he disposed of his stock and retired from active business life, always however, taking a keen and decided interest in the public affairs of the Borough, State and Nation. Some years previous to this time he purchased a large tract of land, lying immediately south of the Bor-

tiful part of the town. On February 4th, 1819 he was married to  
*who was born Sept 13-1792 and was a*  
Miss Salome Keller, daughter of Martin Keller, who landed in Baltimore  
Md., in 1786, emigrating from the Canton of Basle, Switzerland. About  
1800 he removed to Cumberland County and purchased a large tract of  
land in Silver Spring Township, known as "Barbace", situated one-half  
mile north of Mechanicsburg, which is still owned by his descendents.  
The children of John Coover were six in number, one son--who died in  
infancy--and five daughters: Susan K., widow of Phillip H. Long, M. D.;  
Sarah, married to Ephraim Zug, (who died May 1862,) afterward married  
to William H. Oswald, (who died January 1884); Mariamne, wife of Rich-  
ard T. Hummel, Hummelstown, Dauphin County, Pa.; A. Elizabeth, married  
to Levi Kauffman (now deceased); *July 10/1882* and J. Emmeline, widow of Daniel  
Coover. John Coover died May 13th, 1862, and his widow January 3rd,  
1883, and they were both buried in the old family grave-yard at  
"Barbace", by the side of Martin Keller, and Martin Keller's wife and  
mother.

The old homestead built by John Coover, situated on the N. E. cor-  
ner of Main and Frederick Streets, Mechanicsburg, and in which he and  
his wife lived to the date of their death, is still occupied by one of  
his daughters. Mr. Coover was a quiet unassuming man, one who  
made many friends, and of wide influence in his church and society.  
He was a great reader, and had a fine mind and tenacious memory. His  
name was a synonym for honesty and integrity, and from time to time he  
filled the various municipal offices; was for many years Justice of

was guardian-- I beleive as many as one hundred. A consistent and leading member of the German Baptist or "Dunkard" Church, he was kind to the poor, a kind husband, and an indulgent father. Generous to a fault, kind hearted and true, he was beloved by all who knew him, and his memory is deeply cherished ~~now~~ for his sterling worth and christian character of which his descendents may well be proud.

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