

The Ripple History.

Grandfather Lewis Ripple was wight years old when his parents came to this country from Germany(Lutherns in faith). His mother was a Miss Nicodemus, and one of her brothers came to this country at the same time with his family. The Nicodemus family settled in this, Franklin County, not far from Waynesboro. He was a farmer, and lived to a good old age, in the home hemade.

Lewis Ripple's father, a farmer, settled in Maryland near Hagertown, and remained there until his large family of sons grew to manhood. He then decided to go to the then far West, Ohio, and be better able to settle his sons on farms and thus help them start in life. So in 1799, or a few years later, he packed all their household goods in wagons, his sons mounted on good horses, his wife and daughter and self in carryall, with abundant provision for their comfort in every way, and they set sail as grandfather expressed, for their new home. As was the custom, the wagons started a few days ahead of the family, so that both could arrive on the other side of the mountain about the same time.

The day before the final start, Lewis went to Greencastle, Pa., to the races,(held after the haverst and crops

were all gathered, and out of those gatherings came, when I was a child, what was called "Big Musterings", and later the County Fair), and there he saw for the first time the rosy cheeked English girl, Peggy Johnson, who when he met her in the day so pleased him that on reaching his parents that night, he told them he had decided to remain here until he could win Peggy, and if so, would make his home here. After riding a day or two with his family, he returned to Maryland, and to his work as a Millwright. As soon as he had saved enough, and ~~to the~~ as they said for a beginning, Lewis Ripple and Margaret Johnson were married February 28, 1804, and came to live near Waynesboro on the Antietam, where they lived until the Spring of 1811. Grandfather bought the Hotel on the Summit of the mountain then called "Zero", now known as Monterey. My mother Matilda was only a few weeks old when the family then of four children, went to the summit, and her recollections were of a busy life. Nine children made the family complete, without sickness or sorrow of any kind, until John, the eldest child, was 21 years old, then after a short attack of rheumatism, he entered into rest. He was much beloved by all the family. It was brother John who made the trips to Baltimore and Pittsburg, driving six fine horses drawing one of those great land schooners loaded with valuables, good of various kinds. He brought the older daughters wonderful accounts of the many very beautiful things he had seen, books he had heard of, and some things he had read. He remembered everything and told or sang for the home ones to learn. We have in the house to-day samples of his good taste in shopping.

Grandfather was a Lutheran, and at their marriage grandmother

united with him, but a few years later they connected themselves with the Methodist Church. Their house was known for years as the Preachers Home, as preaching services were held there.

Mother told us many interesting stories of those long ago times. She and the older ones walked several miles to school to the foot of the mountain. The Master boarded at her father's and often the Master broke the way through the snow. She said that they walked Indian file, and sometimes a band of Indians would pass them. Mother said, "Oh, but she would try to keep close to the Master", but the Indians were on their way to and from Washington to see the "great father", as they called our President.

Travelers were coming and going all the time. Goods of all kinds were hauled from Pittsburg to Baltimore, and from Baltimore to Pittsburg. Immigrants from foreign lands in wagons and on foot, the wealthy people traveling by carriage and horse back, not a day or night, without the excitement of arrivals and departures. Among the most interesting to us was the arrival of Mrs Iterbide, whose husband Don Augustin Iterbide was executed July 19, 1824, in Mexico. Just how soon, but not long after her husband's death, she took one or two, I do not remember which, of her children to school in the convent at Emmitsburg, Md. Mrs Iterbide traveled in the best style of that day. She had twenty servants with her, and her own Priest accompanying her. She was so delighted with the house and all surroundings that she rested a number of days there. Her interpreter told grandfather ~~that~~ (the many things of their li-

ves in these dreadful days to them. So it ever had a fascination to us, and I have followed the lives of her children, as their names appeared in print from time to time.

Years after grandfather went to live there, it was decided to call the place Monterey, and at the same time, the old McGuire place a mile West was named Buena Vista, and for years both have been known as delightful Summer resorts.

Grandfather Ripple sold the Monterey property to Samuel Burman in 1838, and purchased, and lived and died at Indian Spring farm a few miles West of Monterey.

Grandmother's parents came from England and settled at Rocky Spring near Chambersburg. Both her parents died near together, leaving three little children. The boy was taken North by an uncle, and he was lost sight of. Grandmother and her sister were sent, as the mother directed, to her old Uncle Warfield, who came from England, and settled in May Ladys Manor, Maryland. But the little girls were among strangers, and not willing to stay, so their parents friend, Mr Renfrew, took them to his own home where they were kindly reared and trained for lives of usefulness by Mrs Renfrew, who filled a mother's place. The little girls never forgot the long ride on horseback, (each seated on a pillion, and old gentleman, in front of each) from Chambersburg to My Ladys Manor, and after two day's rest, back.

Grandmother's sister Elizabeth, married a Mr Balck, and left a large family of children. As far as I know they were all members of the Methodist Church.

My mother was Matilda, the fourth child of Lewis and Margaret Ripple. She married in 1838 Andrew G. Wiley Nevin, son of David and

Catherine Gailey Nevin, and I, Julia R. Nevin, am their eldest child, born in 1839.

Both grandfather and grandmother were great readers, and in that time their only way to purchase books was from calportures, who came once a year, and I remember their giving an order for a book, and waiting with pleasure the coming of the man at the end of a year. I have often heard grandfather say, "Well, mother, the books will soon be here, now". Grandfather was a German scholar, so his large bible and books were in German. His German bible was printed in 1776. Grandmother's large bible and other books were in English. The date of the publication of grandmother's bible is 1813. Both their bibles are in the house now. All grandfather's other German books were given after his death, to his old friend, Christian Frantz, father of our townsman Dr. Benjamin Frantz.

We have in the house the bandbox that mother's wedding bonnet came in from Baltimore. The bonnet was dove color. The size of the box is 14" high and 39½" in circumference. It is oval in shape, and is 20 inches long by 17½ wide at the widest place. Also have a long black lace veil. The bonnet just filled the box, and I wore it out in play, to my grief at this time, for it would be a sight to behold now.
Julia R. Nevin.

Deaths:

John Ripple departed this life February 7th, 1826. Aged 21 years and nine days.

Elizabeth Balck departed this life May 21st, 1851. Aged 72 years 11 months and 6 days. (Grandmother's only sister)

Lweis Ripple, Senior, departed this life February 23rd, 1852. Aged 73 years and 26 days.

Margaret Ripple departed this life December 23rd, 1858. Aged 76
years , 2 months, and 26 days.