

HISTORY  
OF  
FRANKLIN COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA,

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CONTAINING A HISTORY OF THE COUNTY, ITS TOWNSHIPS, TOWNS,  
VILLAGES, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, INDUSTRIES, ETC.; PORTRAITS OF  
EARLY SETTLERS AND PROMINENT MEN; BIOGRAPHIES;  
HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA, STATISTICAL AND  
MISCELLANEOUS MATTER, ETC., ETC.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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REV. HENRY HARBAUGH, D. D., was born October 28, 1817, at the foot of South Mountain, in the northeastern part of Franklin County, Penn., near the boundary of Maryland. His birthplace is a substantial two-story, double-front stone house, at the old Hagerstown and Gettysburg road. Yost Harbaugh, the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a Swiss, who, with his family, came to America in 1736, and first settled in Maxatawny Valley in Berks County, Penn., midway between Reading and

Allenton. They were members of the Reformed Church in Switzerland, and they and their descendants continued in her communion. In 1743 they moved to York County, on Kreutz Creek, as you go from Columbia to York. Jacob, the third son of Yost Harbaugh, on his marriage in 1761, moved to the north-western part of Frederick County, Md., into a small valley, which, because he was one of the first settlers, took the name of "Harbaugh's Valley," which it still bears. Jacob's son George, being the tenth child, on his marriage, settled in Franklin County, Penn., on what is known now as the "Harbaugh Home," as above located. He is the father of Henry Harbaugh. Henry Harbaugh's mother was of German descent, born in Lancaster County. Her paternal name was Snyder, originally spelled Schneider. Her parents moved to Washington County, Md., when she was six years old. Harbaugh was a Pennsylvania German by birth. His parents were Christians, members of the Reformed Church. Their children were baptized in infancy and received religious training. When Henry was yet a boy, Rev. F. A. Scholl, then pastor of the family, on giving good-bye at the front door after a pastoral visit, laid his hand on Henry's head and said to his father, "This boy ought to become a minister of the gospel." That remark had the effect of a call from God to the boy; from that day forward he was obedient to the call. When about fifteen years old he was instructed in the Christian faith by Rev. G. W. Glessner, then his pastor, in the use of the Heidelberg Catechism, and in due time was received into full communion with the Reformed Church at Waynesboro by a public profession of his faith in the rite of confirmation. Until in his nineteenth year he continued on the farm at home, though he felt a strong impulse to study, and he availed himself of every opportunity to cultivate his mind. Fond of working in wood he, for a time, wrought at the trade of a millwright. But his desires lay entirely in another direction. He wished to go to school, to take a college course, to prepare for the ministry. But his father did not comprehend the aspirations that were struggling in his bosom, and gave him no encouragement. By and by the youth got his parents' consent to visit some relatives in Ohio, and to seek work there. He soon found employment. He wrought at building mills. Meanwhile he kept one object steadily in view, a college course, the ministry. He turned every chance to account for study. While working at a mill he selected a bolting-chest for a study, secured candles, shut himself in it, and while his fellow workmen were spending their evenings in idleness and folly he pored over his books. When he had earned nearly \$200 his employer failed, and he lost all. But he kept right on. He worked, taught school, gave lessons in singing, husbanded his savings for three years, and, in 1840, with some funds in his pocket, he applied for admission into the freshman class in Marshall College, then at Mercersburg, Penn. He passed through the freshman and sophomore classes, and spent the third year in studying theology. Meanwhile his father saw the bent of his son's mind and came to his help. In 1843 Mr. Harbaugh was licensed to preach, and settled at Lewisburg, Penn., where he labored seven years, serving a number of congregations and building a new church. Just before entering on his work here he was married to Miss Louisa Goodrich, of Carroll County, Ohio, who died in the spring of 1847, as also did a child a few weeks old, thus leaving him and a little daughter alone. In the fall of 1848 he married Miss Mary Louisa, daughter of James F. Linn Esq., of Lewisburg, Penn., who still survives him. Ten children were born to them, four of whom preceded their father to the heavenly home. At Lewisburg Mr. Harbaugh began his career as a writer for theological reviews, church papers, etc., and as an author. In 1849 he published his first book, "The Sainted Dead." In 1850 he founded the "Guard-

ian," a monthly magazine devoted to the young, "without funds and without patronage;" edited it himself for seventeen years, and it is still published. In 1850 he accepted a call to the First Reformed Church at Lancaster, Penn., where he labored for ten years, and built one of the finest churches at that time in the denomination. In 1851 he published a second book, "The Heavenly Recognition," and in 1853 the third volume, "The Heavenly Home." Other books followed as, "The Lord's Portion;" in 1855, "Union with the Church," "The Birds of the Bible," beautifully illustrated; in 1857, "Schlatter's Life and Travels," and "The Fathers of the Reformed Church," two volumes; in 1858, "The True Glory of Woman," "A Book of Poems;" in 1860, "The Golden Censer." During these ten years he had a large charge to look after, with all the duties this involves. In 1860 he accepted a call to St. John's Reformed Church, Lebanon, Penn. In 1861 he issued another book, "Hymns and Chants." In October, 1863, he was elected by the synod to the office of professor of systematic and practical theology, in the seminary of the Reformed Church then at Mercersburg, Penn. He entered on his duties January 1, 1864. He died at the end of 1867. His inaugural address on Christological theology was published in book form. As professor in the seminary he wrought out a full course of lectures on dogmatics, itself a work of immense labor; and a full course lectures on practical theology, and on catechetics, and on cultus, and on the pastoral work. These lectures contained matter enough for a good sized octavo volume in each case. Then he prepared lectures on homiletics, on symbols, on the history of reformed dogmatics, and on the "Heidelberg catechism." The mere mention of these topics gives no adequate conception at all of the labor involved. During this time he preached almost every Sunday, wrote for various periodicals, and edited the *Guardian* until January, 1867, when he undertook to revive and edit the *Mercersburg Review*. In 1867 he published "The Child's Catechism," and "Youth in Earnest."

He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Union College, New York, in 1860. During the last fifteen years of his life his Synod and Classis made constant demands on him for special work, which he cheerfully did. He was associated with almost all the important boards and committees. He was the prime mover in the celebration by the whole church, in 1863, in Philadelphia, of the 300th anniversary of the formation and adoption of the Heidelberg catechism, and was chiefly instrumental in making the jubilee a success. He originated the first Reformed Church almanac, and afterward annually prepared the reading matter for it. Harbaugh was a poet. Much of his prose has a rich poetical vein pervading it. He wrote some hymns that will live on in the worship of the church. He is the first Pennsylvania German poet of abiding merit. As Hebel, the Alemannian bard, embodied the patois of his country in immortal verse, so Dr. Harbaugh embodied the Pennsylvania German in poems that will not die. After his death they were gathered up and published in book form. As a preacher, Dr. Harbaugh was fresh, instructive, sympathetic, full of unction and power. In his pastoral work he was a faithful shepherd to the sheep, and he folded the lambs in his arms. As an author, his books were well received, passing through many editions, and they are still eagerly read. In the summer and fall of 1867 a shadow gathered over his brain and gradually prostrated him. But he trusted in God and was not afraid. He awaited his Master's good pleasure. One day, toward the end of his life, when invited to take some nourishment, he said: "You have called me back from the golden gates." On the 28th of December, 1867, he fell asleep in Jesus, aged fifty years and two months. His body lies buried in the yard of the Reformed Church at Mercersburg, Penn., where

an appropriate monument marks his grave. There has been no death in the Reformed Church in this country that caused such universal sorrow.