

# According To Luke

*“For a good man out of the good treasure of his heart  
bringeth forth that which is good.”*

- St. Luke, V1— 45

*“Good name, in man and woman, dear my lord, is the imme-  
diate jewel of their souls.”*

Shakespeare

In the history of Cambria County, printed during the life time of two of the principals mentioned herein, appears this record of the Luke Family. To preserve this record and at the same time furnish the families most interested with a copy, the present book is arranged. The members of the Luke family now alive have a reason to be proud of the family record.

The history of the Luke family as printed in the Cambria County record is as follows:

The Luke family, of which **Daniel W.** and **Dr. John C.**, of South Fork are worthy scions, is of sturdy Scotch-Irish ancestry and origin. The grandfather of these representatives of the family was **James Luke**, who was born in County Antrim, Ireland. Here he wooed and wedded Miss **Mary McClain**, a Scotch lady, and near the close of the eighteenth century, or shortly after the war for Independence, they sought a home in the newly-born republic across the Atlantic. They settled in the vicinity of the present town of Armagh, Indiana County, then a dense forest, broken at but rare intervals with the clearings of a sturdy pioneer. With characteristic industry and energy he set about the task of clearing out a farm and the founding of a home, upon which homestead he spent the remainder of his days. Coming to this county during the formative period of our government, the various theories of government and party principles were hotly discussed, and Thomas Jefferson was the political idol of a large following of worshipers, he became a staunch democrat, and adhered steadfastly to that party all his life. He was a devout Presbyterian, and stood high in Masonic circles.

His marriage with **Mary McClain** resulted in the birth of seven children, all of whom are deceased. They were **James**, who did honorable service for his country in the war of 1812, and afterward settled in Black Lick township, this county, where he held honorable place among his neighbors and served as a Justice of the Peace: **William**, who emigrated to the State of Iowa and followed farming: **Elizabeth**, who married **Jacob S. Ambough**, who was also a soldier in the war of 1812: **John**, the father of the older members of the family: **Daniel W.** and **Dr. John C.**, of South Fork: **George**, died young: **David**, died young; **Catherine**, and **Alexander**, who was a farmer near the old homestead of the family at Armagh, and with who **Catherine** lived.

**John Luke** (father) was born in Indiana County, and attended the subscription schools of the vicinity of Armagh which were noted as being in advance of those of other sections of the country at this period. He was diligent and industrious in his studies, and secured an equivalent of a good common school education, and for a number of years followed teaching.

After his marriage, or about 1828, he, with his wife, with no other possessions than a strong arm, a stout heart and unyielding courage, removed into the virgin forests of Black Lick township, this county, and there founded a home and cleared to cultivation one of the finest farms in the township. Prior to 1860 he was a democrat, but, upon the issues of that campaign, became a republican. His wife died in 1858, fourteen years prior to his death in 1872, and he made his home with his children at Riter's Furnace, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. In 1871 he was afflicted with a stroke of paralysis, but through kind nursing and good medical attention, was supposed to have entirely regained his health in 1872, when in August of that year he started afoot for Summerhill, to visit his son **Daniel W.**, who lived in that place. On account of sickness, of some unknown cause, he lost his way, and never reached his destination. As soon as it became known that he was missing, the alarm was given, and hundreds of people scoured the woods diligently searching for him; he was not found until twelve days had elapsed, when he was found quietly sleeping the sleep that knows no waking on the rude bed of leaves and moss he had hastily constructed by a log, only a short distance from his old home.

His marriage with **Charlotte George** resulted in the birth of the following children: **N. G.**, who, after attending Meadville College, joined the Erie Conference as a Methodist preacher: **Mary**, widow of the late **Philip W. Pringle**, of Summerhill, this county: **James**, deceased; **Elizabeth**, deceased, was the wife of **William D. Ellis**, of Iowa: **Dr. John C.**, whose sketch follows: **Charlotte**, wife of **Patrick Bremen**, of McKean County, this state: **Daniel W.**, whose sketch follows: **Catherine**, wife of **Hugh Roberts**, **Jacob**, **William** and **David**, deceased.

**Dr. John C. Luke**, a prominent and successful physician of South Fork, this county, is a son of **John** and **Charlotte (George) Luke**, and was born in Black Lick township, the county.

For the family history refer to sketch under the head of "The Luke Family" above.

**Dr. Luke** was brought up on a farm and received his preparatory education in the public schools and attending school during the summer at the Western Reserve Seminary of Farming in Ohio and Leroy Academy at Leroy, Ohio. By teaching during the winter months and attending school during the summer he obtained a good, preparatory education. He entered the office of **Dr. G. W. Smith**, of Hollidaysburg, as a student of medicine, entered the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, in 1865, and spent one term; than after teaching two entered the medical department of the Western Reserve University, at Cleveland, Ohio, from which school he graduated in 1871, taking a special course in operative surgery and holds a diploma for the same. After completing his professional preparations he located in Summerhill, this county, where he practiced nine years and then removed to South Forks, his residence ever since.

**Dr. Luke** is progressive, keeps well abreast of the medical science of the age, and belongs to the Cambria County Medical Society of which organization he has been Vice-President and one of the committee appointed to revise the fee bill.

**Dr. Luke** has not confined himself of his profession, but has taken an active part in the industrial development of his neighborhood. He was one of the organizers of the Euclid Coal Company in 1883, and was Secretary, Treasurer and Superintendent of three mines until 1891, and is a one-third owner of a large tract of coal land in Adams township.

Politically **Dr. Luke** is a republican, and was postmaster of South Fork under the administration of Benjamin Harrison from 1889 to 1893; school director for twelve years; councilman of the borough of South Fork, and has served as chairman of the Republican County Committee of Cambria County.

November 8, 1860 he married **Annie**, a daughter of **Watson Thomson**, of Indiana County, this state, and to this union has been born five children as follows: **Arah**, who died in childhood; **Charles E.** in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company; **Annie** and **John T.**, deceased, and **Roscoe M.**, at home.

**Daniel W. Luke**, coal operator, of South Fork, this county, is a son of **John** and **Charlotte (George) Luke**, and was born, March 23, 1841, in Blacklick township this county.

He was educated in the common and select schools, and at the age of eighteen began teaching and followed it two years. When the clouds of the war arose he left the school room and took up arms in defense of the flag and the honor of the country. He enlisted as a private, but was promoted to a first sergeantry. Among the most important battles and skirmishes in which he took part are the following: Great Falls, July 7, 1861; Falmouth, April 18, 1862; Mechanicville, June 26; Chickahominy, June 27; Cold Harbor, on the same date; Culpepper, July 12; Glendale, June 30; Nelson Farm, Frazier Farm and Turkey Bend, on the same date; Gumtown or Gainesville, August 28-29, 1862; Bull Run, August 30; White Oak Swamp, June 30, 1862; Malvern Hill, July 1; Williamsburg, July 11, 1862; Gettysburg, July 1, 1863; Manassas and Chester Gaps, July 21-23, 1863; Rappahannock Station, Brandy Station and Kitty Ford, August 1 to 3, 1863; Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863; Beverly Ford and Bradley's Station, January 5, 1863; Warrenton Junction, May 3, 1863; Rappannock Station, September 4-19. and October 10, 1863; Mine Run, November 26 and 28, 1863; and the Wilderness, May 5, 1864.

He was captured at the battle of the Wilderness on May 5th, and taken to Andersonville Prison, where he was held four months and was then taken to Florence, South Carolina, where he was held three months longer before being exchanged. While in prison at the latter place, he with nine others under a guard of ten men were sent out to gather wood; watching for his opportunity, **Mr. Luke** made a break for freedom, the guard fired at him, but missed, and he made his way into a swamp. Here he carefully concealed himself until night when he tried to make good his escape. He had not proceeded far until he heard the tonguing of blood hounds; but upon their coming up to him he discovered they were not of the ferocious kind, and he easily quieted them, and following their guide some distance came upon a corn field. The owner not knowing of their presence, fired a gun, and the dogs fled. He then proceeded and coming to a swollen stream, the Great Pedee river, improvised a raft with which he tried to cross it, but in mid-stream it parted, and he was forced to swim for the shore. Soon afterwards, near Cheraw, North Carolina, about sixty miles from the prison, he was surprised and captured by four Confederates, who returned him to prison.

After retiring from service he again taught school a few years, and, in 1871 came to South Fork, where he began his career as a coal producer.

He is at the present time superintendent of the Aurora Coal Company, of which he was one of the organizers, a member of Mountain Coal Company, a member and the manager of the South Fork Supply Company, an owner of a third interest in another tract of coal land consisting of seven hundred acres in Adams township, president of the Roaring Springs Land and Mining Company, of Joplin, Missouri. This company with a capital stock of \$100,000 was organized for the purpose of developing the lead and zinc mines of that section of Missouri.

He is also a director of the South Fork Water Company. Politically **Mr. Luke** is a democrat, and as he has always been known to be a staunch friend of the cause of education he has been kept with the exception of one term, continuously on the board of school directors of his district since the organization in 1871, and is at the present time (1896) secretary of the board.

He has been postmaster of South Fork under both of Cleveland's administrations. In Masonic circles **Mr. Luke** stands deservedly high, being a member of Summit Lodge, No. 312, F. and A.M., Chapter R. A.M., Oriental Commandry, No. 61, Knights Templar.

**Mr. Luke** has been twice married; his first marital alliance was with **Francois P.**, a daughter of **William Davis**, of Clarion County, this state, and resulted in the birth of eight children; **John Howard**, a merchant of South Fork; **William Tell**; **Maggie Oliva** and **Katie Lenora**, deceased; **Daniel Wallace**, **Mary Florence**, **Josephine** and **Ralph Waldo**, at home.

June 26, 1894, he married his second wife, **Catherine**, a daughter of **Joseph W. Wilson**, of Blair county, and one child, **Laban Lee**, has blessed this union.

**Daniel W. Luke** was born to the inheritance of a noble character and a good name, which he has preserved through every trial and vicissitude of life. He is one of the representative business men of the State who have not only deserved success, but won it.

As a soldier he shirked no duty, but fought well and gallantly the battles of his country, and well won a reputation for bravery and courage that will shine with increasing lustre until the final roll call.

**Mr. Luke** since the age of eighteen, has been a consistent and earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a worker in the cause of Christianity, and it is with happy satisfaction he realizes the fact that his family are following in his footsteps. This to him is more to be desired than honor or great gain.

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(assumed written in 1896 per page 6.)