

GRANDMOTHER'S REMINISCENCES.

Here, in Baltimore he started to learn the Tailoring trade, and worked at it for seven years. Later he removed to Greensburg, Westmoreland Co. Penna., where Grandmother was born. Here for many years he worked as a tailor till he was appointed a sort of supervisor of public buildings, a position, which is not similar to any we have now, as far as I can determine. He had charge of the courthouse and jail, and lived in a house next to the courthouse.

Grandmother's grandfather, on her mother's side, was Joseph Kern. He was a hatter by trade till he bought a farm near Greensburg and started a nursery. Later a coal mine was opened on the property, but the demand in those days was not very great, as the mountains offered all the wood for fuel that was needed, and the mine never became a great source of revenue in Jos. Kern's day. He bought another farm just outside of what is now Johnstown. At the time of his death, it was plotted out into building lots and was sold as part of Kernville. When he died, the executors made way with the money from the sale, so that little of it ever came to the heirs. Jos. Kern married a Margaret Steinbach, who descended from German ancestors about two generations back. Her mother died when she was only nine years old, and she had to raise her younger sister and a mere baby. However she became a most excellent housekeeper, and grandmother remembered her grandmother Steinbach for her tidiness and neat housekeeping. Her Daughter, Sarah Kern was born in York. She received a good education in what was the best school there, conducted by a Mrs. Biddle. Later she married Kendrick Kiel and settled with him in Greensburg Pa.

In 1828, on July 29, Grandmother was born in Greensburg. At that time it was a bustling little town of about one thousand people. There were no railroads then, the first locomotives being introduced a year later in the east. The stage coaches carried all the travel, and Greensburg was an important post. There were stations at regular intervals of ten miles along the way, and Greensburg was the crossing place of two routes. The stage coaches were pulled by four horses. They had three seats, and were lined with red plush. The coach was hung in big circular springs. A "Boot" out behind held the trunks and baggage. If there were too many passengers or too much baggage, the extra ones were placed on top of the roof, where a rail kept them from sliding off.

Greensburg lies on a hill, the surrounding country being very hilly with good farming land all around. There were considerable woods at a distance, tho there were no mountains in the immediate vicinity, the nearest one being 19 miles away. In the rhyme of one of the childrens play songs, the location is spoken of as follows:

"Greensburg is a pleasant place,
It lies upon a hill,
'Tis only about a half a mile
From Billy Bess' mill.