

Jacob Eshleman Warfel, Painter.

This promising artist, the son of John and Maria Warfel, was born in Paradise township, Lancaster county, on July 21, 1826. He developed a natural inclination towards art at an early age; so much so, indeed, that his youthful efforts in drawing and painting drew the attention both of Sully and Armstrong, from both of whom he took instructions, and by whose advice he greatly profited.

He painted both in oil and water colors with equal success. As is the case with most young artists, portraits and landscapes came from his brush. His early efforts were full of high promise, and those best qualified to estimate his abilities felt assured that in time his name would stand high in the role of our native artists.

His progress in his chosen profession was both rapid and steady, and the prospect of reaching a lasting place among Pennsylvania artists unusually flattering. Unfortunately, these early promises were not realized. His health failed him, and he fell a victim to that dread destroyer, consumption, which ended his career on June 2, 1855.

For a time he practiced his art in the South, in the city of Richmond, Va. Whether he went South because of his failing health is not known, but some of his work while there ranks among his most successful efforts. It is to be regretted that so few particulars of his personal and artistic career have been preserved.

It is not known how many speci-

mens of his skill are in existence, or where most of them are. His niece, Miss Jessie F. Warfel, of Lancaster, has four oil paintings from his brush, namely:

1. A portrait of the artist's brother, the late Hon. John B. Warfel, at the age of nineteen years.

2. A large fruit picture in oil.

3 and 4. Two heads, in oil; one painted in 1839, when he was only thirteen years of age, and said to have been his first effort in portraiture.

5. Portrait in oil of Jacob Eshleman.

6. Portrait in oil of Mary (Brackbill) Eshleman. Both these latter are in the possession of Silas K. Eshleman, grandson of the pair.

7. Portrait in oil of Daniel Gibbons (1775-1853), noted for his efforts in behalf of escaping slaves on their way to Canada.

8. A portrait of Hannah W. Gibbons, wife of the foregoing Daniel Gibbons. This picture was only partially painted by Mr. Warfel, having been completed in later years by Isaac L. Williams.

Both Nos. 7 and 8 are owned by Mrs. Marianna G. Brubaker.

Doubtless still other pictures from the brush of Mr. Warfel could be found in the rural neighborhood where the greater part of his life was passed.

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