

McKown, William, was born in the town of Guilderland, July 13, 1842. John McKown, his second great-grandfather, was a native of Scotland and founder of the McKown name in America about 1767. John McKown, his grandfather, was born in the McKownville Hotel in 1778, and in this hotel he grew to manhood and lived until seventy years of age. James, the father of Mr. McKown, was also born in the McKownville Hotel in the year 1814. He assisted his father in the hotel until the latter rented it, and then moved to the farm, which came into his possession at the death of his father, where he lived and died. He was an active and successful farmer and for years was a breeder of cattle. His wife was Sarah Ann White, born in the town of Guilderland, a daughter of Jesse and Sarah White, formerly of Vermont. They had one child, William. Mr. McKown died in February, 1878, and his wife died in 1879. William McKown spent his early years on his father's farm, attending the common schools and the Boys' Academy in Albany. When he was eighteen years of age he entered the grocery store of Samual C. Bradt in Albany as clerk, the store standing where the capitol now stands. After two years as clerk he became a partner in the business, remaining there seven years longer, when, on account of his father's failing health, he closed out his business and returned home to take charge of his father's affairs. His father died the next year, he remained on the farm for fifteen years, when, in 1887, he retired to McKownsville, erecting a fine residence, where he has since resided. He now owns several farms which he looks after. He was for some time president of the Guilderland Mutual Insurance Association. In 1863 he was married to Levina McMillen, who was born in the town of New Scotland, a daughter of Alexander and Margaret McMillen. Their children are James, Margaret, Ella, Jessie, Alexander, Anna, and Eva. The three oldest died when nineteen, eighteen, and seventeen years of age, respectively. His wife died in 1890. His second wife was Mrs. Rachel (Jacobson) Buchanan, who was born in the town of New Scotland, a daughter of Jacob Jacobson. She died September 29, 1896.