Mr. Joseph J. Kehler was born in Eldred Township, January 19, 1849, a son of George H. and Sarah (Fetterholf) Kehler. He was raised on the old homestead in Eldred Township where he attended the public schools, and later attended the Eastman Business College at Poughkeepsie, New York.

At the age of fifteen he worked as a clerk in a general store in Ashland for one year and then was in charge of a general store in Eldred Township for five years. In 1872, he engaged in farming and operating a mill until 1887, when he moved to Frackville.

In 1871, he married Mary J. Hepler, a daughter of Elias and Elizabeth (Fisher) and they had four children: T. Webster; Elizabeth A., married to G.W. Hoppes; Jennie, married to John E. Dyer and Joseph J., Jr., who was principal of the Pottsville High School. In 1889 he established a clothing store on the corner of Balleit and Pine Streets and in 1903 was listed as having a general store at this location.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Kehler and children are listed on the second census taken in Frackville after its incorporation in 1880. He was a stockholder in and director of the First National Bank, of which he was one of the original organizers. He served one term on the Borough Council and was a member of the United Evangelical Church.

Mr. Kehler passed away December 25, 1922 and was buried at the Greenwood Cemetery.

Mr. Joseph J. Kehler was the grandfather of Mrs. Dorothy Spence and Mary W. Kehler who reside in Frackville.