

THE NATIONAL  
CYCLOPÆDIA OF AMERICAN  
BIOGRAPHY

BEING THE  
HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

AS ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIVES OF THE FOUNDERS, BUILDERS, AND DEFENDERS  
OF THE REPUBLIC, AND OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE  
DOING THE WORK AND MOULDING THE  
THOUGHT OF THE PRE-  
SENT TIME

EDITED BY  
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death occurred at Beverly, Mass., Jan. 2, 1930.

**GASKILL, Harvey Freeman**, inventor and engineer, was born at Royalton, N.Y., Jan. 19, 1845, son of Benjamin F. and Olive Gaskill. While attending the local schools he assisted on his father's farm and early evinced a marked aptitude for mechanical invention, having constructed a revolving hay rake in his thirteenth year. Later he attended the Lockport Union high school and the Poughkeepsie commercial college, where he completed the course in 1866. After a short period in his uncle's law office, he became a member of the firm of Penfield, Martin & Gaskill, manufacturers of a patented clock. While employed in a planing mill and sash and blind factory he made several improvements in the machinery. He also designed an improved clothespin and a horse-drawn hay rake which, however, was not manufactured. In 1873 he was draftsman for the Holly Manufacturing Co. of Lockport, N.Y., manufacturers of pumping machinery; four years later was made mechanical engineer and superintendent of the factory and in 1885 became vice-president. His chief contribution to industry was the Gaskill pumping engine perfected in 1882. It was a horizontal compound engine of superior compactness of design and great operative efficiency. It had two sets of steam cylinders and double acting plunger pumps, connected to a single main shaft, with cranks at ninety degrees. It was equipped with an automatic cut-off gear, also Gaskill's invention, by which the point of cut-off may be varied by pressure in the main cylinder. Gaskill was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He was married Dec. 25, 1873, to Mary Elizabeth Moore, of Lockport, N.Y., where he died Apr. 1, 1889.