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BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY
OF THE
SWARR FAMILY

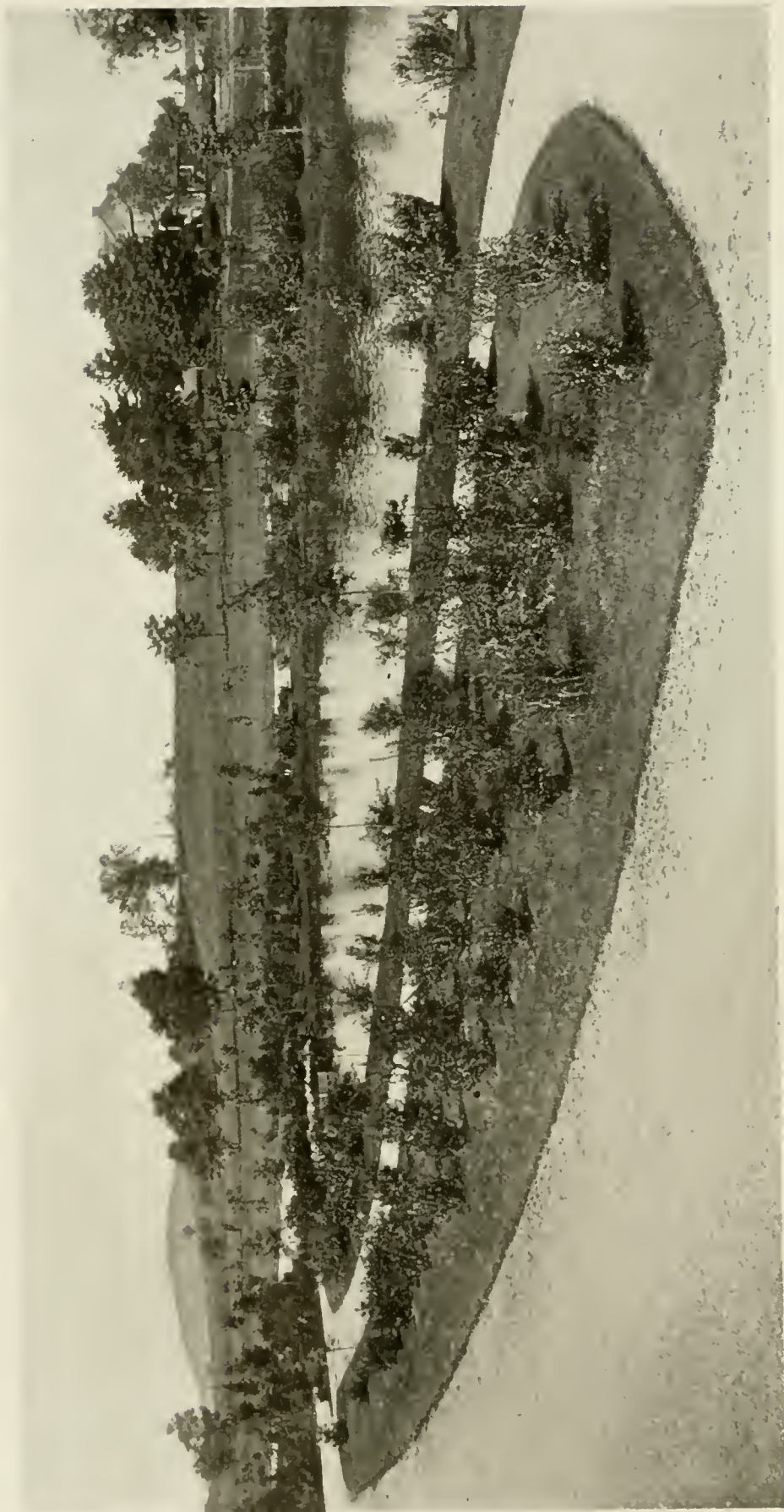


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The Long Park, Lancaster, Pa., part of the original 1000-acre grant made to Peter Swarr.

A BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

OF THE

SWARR FAMILY

OF

LANCASTER COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA

—BY—

JACOB MELLINGER SWARR

MECHANIC'S GROVE, PA.

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A BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

OF THE.

SWARR FAMILY.

THE founder of the family in this country was PETER SCHWAHR, now SWARR, a native of Alsace province, and was born Anno Domini, 1690, near the city of Strasburg. He married a lady, who was a native of the city of Strasburg, whose maiden name was ADALINE BLOOMING. They had two sons, PETER and CHRISTIAN. In the year 1715, he with his family, emigrated to this country and arrived in Philadelphia in the Spring of 1716, as found by colonial records. He left France on account of the persecutions waged against the Protestants, himself and family being Huguenots. Soon after their arrival at Philadelphia, they left for the interior and arrived, at what is now Lancaster City, in the same spring of 1716 and went about one and one-half miles farther west where they made their abode, and took a meal under an oak tree (as I heard related when I was a boy). Here Peter Swarr got in the possession in common, with Hans and Jacob Brubaker, of 1000 acres of land which they divided, Swarr taking the most northerly part of it, which was along the King's Highway, now the Harrisburg Pike. The stone arch bridge on the pike adjacent to what is now Long's Park, was for many years known as Swarr's Bridge. On the north side of the east wing wall, there is a stone built in, that was blood stained before the wall was made, there having been a peddler murdered, by which the stone was stained. Swarr's farm on the south side of the pike (now

Harnish's) still contains buildings put up by Swarr. There was one of the sons killed by a cross bull in the meadow of that farm. The spot was marked with a stone as I was told by Jacob Harnish, who was also raised on the farm; his brother David is the present owner.

Soon after the founder, Peter Swarr had settled here, he got into the possession of 1000 acres of land, four and one-half miles northwest of Lancaster City, now East Hempfield township, where he built a grist and sawmill. On Swarr's run, where he built an aqueduct about a mile long, in order to get rise and fall for a 14 foot overshot water wheel, one of the sons, during the Revolution, put up in place a large three story brick mill by which a post office was named Swarr's Mill Post Office. The mechanics employed by Swarr were Hessian prisoners, who were skilled workmen, whom he got out of the barracks at Lancaster. The brick mill is at present, owned and operated by Henry Miller, a prominent business man and highly respected citizen, who married a Miss Binkley, by which name the mill property was known for a number of years.

After Peter Swarr and his wife were in this country, there were born to them besides Peter and Christian, who were born to them before they emigrated, three daughters named, Anna, Adaline and Blanche, and one son, John, who was my grandfather.

PETER SWARR, oldest son of the founder of the family, married a Long, they had two daughter and one son. Adaline, one of the daughters, married John Shenk, the other daughter married Michael Bauchman. John, the son, married Elizabeth Reist, they had five children, three daughters and two sons. Anna, one of the daughters, married Jacob Hostetter. Elizabeth married John Baer, and Barbara married Emanuel G. Reigart, a prominent lawyer of Lancaster county, and she was often spoken of by President James Buchanan as having been a beautiful and accomplished woman.

JOHN JR., great-grandson of Peter the founder, was born in Lancaster county, October 19, 1776, and was

married to Miss Susan Kauffman, December 24, 1820, by the Rev. Reinke in Lititz. In the spring of 1836, Mr. Swarr went with his family to Mainsburg, Ohio, where he died, Wednesday, July 2, 1884, was buried Saturday the 5th, aged 88 years. He died of infirmities of old age. Services were held at the Reformed church to which he was united a few days before his death. He left four children, two sons and two daughters. His brother Jacob died single.

CHRISTIAN, second son of Peter the founder and brother of my grandfather, married Elizabeth Eby. They had one son and two daughters. Elizabeth, one of the daughters, married John Geisey, Anna the other, married John Kauffman. John the son, married Anna Neff, they had two daughters. Elizabeth married Jacob Miller, they had children, among those living prior to 1853 were Mrs. Ann Kauffman, Amelia, widow of Dr. Neff, Jacob C. and John S. Miller, all of whom were residents of Lancaster city. The other daughter of John, a grandson of Peter the founder, married Henry Baer. They had children, among the living prior to 1853, Dr. Emanuel S. Baer, Harriet, widow of James Bryon, Mrs. Bowman, widow of Dr. Bowman, and Dr. Reuben S. Baer, surgeon United States Navy, deceased.

There were three daughters born to Peter Swarr, the founder of the family after they came to this country, and also my grandfather John was born in Lancaster county in 1740. The daughters, Anna, Adaline and Blanche. My great-grandfather, Peter Swarr the founder, died 1767, aged 78; his wife died sooner. The three daughters married three brothers by the name of Shirk. Anna was born 1720, married Ulrich Shirk, resided in the north-eastern part of Lancaster county, died 1810, aged 90 years. She is buried near Shœneck, what is now known as Steinmetz's Church and Cemetery, formerly Swarr's Graveyard, where my grandfather had several hundred acres of land, and afterwards owned by my uncle John Swarr.

My grandfather John, son of Peter the founder, as stated before, was born 1740, and was married to Veronica

Shirk, 1768; had children, John, born August 3, 1769; Elizabeth, February 16, 1773; Christian, 1776; Peter and Veronica, January 17, 1779, and Anna, June 16th, 1781. Veronica, grandfather's wife, died 1783, aged 30 years. Grandfather was again married in 1785 to Magdalena Yordy, widow of Peter Yordy, deceased. Her maiden name was Nissley and only been married to Yordy less than a year, when he died. She had no children by her first husband and was but twenty-three years at the time she was married to grandfather. She was born in Lancaster county, November 14, 1762. Grandfather had by second marriage, five children, viz: Maria, born September 7, 1786; Martin, my father, October 25, 1788; Jacob and Samuel, November 11, 1790; Magdalena, September 9, 1793.

My Uncle John Jr., my grandfather's oldest son, married a Shirk, they had five daughters, one married Charles Steinmetz, who came in possession of the old homestead. They had one son, Daniel, who was married, but both died without any children. One of the daughters married Christian Weist, who occupied part of the original tract of Swarr's land, they had two sons, Jacob and Samuel. Jacob married and operated the farm and for a time, was a lover and breeder of thoroughbred cattle, sheep, swine and poultry. He acquired a considerable estate. He and his wife died without children. Dr. Samuel, the second son, married a Miss Baer, they resided in the village of Schœneck, here he enjoyed a lucrative medical practice for over forty years, and he was noted as a horticulturist. He was also engaged in packing of leaf tobacco. He acquired a large estate. Before he died, he willed \$10,000 dollars towards the erection of a church edifice in Schœneck. The widow is still living.

Another of Uncle John's daughters married Michael Bard, they had children, but have no record of them. The fourth of Uncle John's daughters married Mr. Lutz, they had sons and daughters, one of the daughters married Henry Eberly, a well-to-do farmer and esteemed citizen,

whose wife died about one year ago. I have no further record of the Lutz family.

Sally, the fifth daughter of Uncle John Swarr, married John S. Gross, who was for many years owner and proprietor of the Central Hotel in Ephrata. They had two sons, who are now living, the oldest Martin, is married and has a daughter married. The second son George is single, all residents of Ephrata. My Uncle John died, March 9, 1821, aged 52 years, his widow lived about forty years longer, aged 90 years.

My Aunt ELIZABETH SWARR, was twice married, her first husband was Henry Neff, they had children, one a son John, he removed to Philadelphia and became a prominent citizen there. He is deceased, and left surviving him one child a daughter, Matilda, who while single has acquired a reputation for her musical proficiency. The second husband of Aunt Elizabeth, was Jacob Kinch, they had two sons, Joseph and Emanuel, the latter removed to the west the rest of the family lived and died in East Hempfield township.

Uncle CHRISTIAN SWARR, a brother, was twice married, first to Maria Yordy, they had children, one daughter married George Kreider, a farmer in West Lampeter township. They had children, one son David married and have children and a son Michael. A daughter married a Herr, they had children, two daughters, one married to a Mr. Burkholder of West Lampeter township, and the other daughter is married to John L. Herr, a prominent farmer and esteemed citizen of East Drumore township. The other daughter of Christian Swarr, was married to Henry Stamen, they had seven children, four sons. Christian, who married a Miss Erb, and had one daughter when he died; Benjamin, married a Miss Buckwalter, they had a son Henry and daughter Lizzie. The daughters, Eliza married Mr. Brand; Anna, married a Mr. Buckwalter, and Maria married Henry Hottenstine, they had seven children that lived to a mature age. Rev. Amos, married a Miss Brand; Henry, married Miss Harnish; Philip, married

Miss Miller ; Jacob, married Miss Metzler, they all have children and are all much respected citizens of East Hempfield township. The daughters are, Mary, married Fred. Koser ; Kate, married a Harnish ; Lizzie, single, at home.

Uncle Christian's second wife was a widow, Rhode nee Kauffman, they had one son, Rudolph and two daughters. Rudolph Swarr married a Miss Sloat, they had one child, a son Samuel, who is married and has children, and resides in the northern part of Lancaster county. The oldest daughter Fanny, married David Royer, and Barbara, married Dr. Gabriel Groff, who was a prominent citizen of Landisville, they left surviving them one son and one daughter. Uncle Christian died 1844, aged 68.

Uncle PETER SWARR married Barbara Baker, they had four sons and two daughters. Betzy, married George Gamber, they had children. John married Miss Martin, they have children, of whom I have no record. Adam married a Miss Wissler, I have no further record. Henry, the oldest son, married Anna Shenk, they have sons of whom they may well be proud, as being much respected citizens. Fanny, the daughter, married Mr. Bender, they reside near Rothsville, Lancaster county. Uncle Peter's other daughter, Polly, married John Kauffman, who was a farmer and highly respected citizen of East Hempfield township. They had six children. Anna, married Henry Gochnauer, they have sons and daughters. Mr. Gochnauer leaves a widow survive. The family is much respected in the neighborhood they reside in, East Hempfield. Betzy, the youngest daughter, married William Evans, who was a noted auctioneer of Lititz, where he carried on butchering for a number of years, and was prominently engaged in the coal and lumber business. They have children. Emanuel, the oldest son of John Kauffman, married Miss Stauffer, lived in Lititz, and enjoyed a lucrative trade in partnership with Mr. Evans, his brother-in-law, at butchering and coal and lumber. Jacob and John, sons of John Kauffman Sr., are residents of Lititz, but have no record. Amos, the youngest son, married Fayette Eberly. They were farming



Brick Old Mennonite Church, Willow Street, Pa.

and butchering and marketing, but removed to Lancaster, engaging in grocery and provision business. They have one son, Eugene Kauffman, who resides at Bird-in-Hand.

PETER JR., one of Uncle Peter's Swarr sons, was married to a Miss Brubaker, they lived at East Petersburg, they had one son, Jefferson, who remained single and holds forth in Lancaster city. They had one daughter, Barbara. She married John Markly, he enlisted in the Civil war where he was captured by the rebels and was cast into Libby prison, where he was nearly starved to death. He is now deceased.

JACOB, son of Uncle Peter Swarr, married Miss Gamber, he carried on farming and hotel business also cattle and horse dealing at Pennville, Lancaster county. They had one son, Jacob Jr., who married a Miss Kemper, daughter of Levi Kemper, late proprietor of the Warwick House. They had one son, Barton, who is a native of Philadelphia. Jacob, son of Uncle Peter Swarr, had two daughters, Kate and Polly, who married Henry Stauffer, who is deceased, leaving a wife and several children survive. Kate was married to Jacob Minick, he died soon after; she was afterwards married to Herman Graybill. She died soon after.

CHRISTIAN, another son of my Uncle Peter, married Mary Frick. They had sons and daughters, and were engaged in farming. The oldest son Henry enlisted in the Union army in the Civil War, was wounded in battle and died in camp. Their two daughters, Harriet and Maria, both died single of typhoid fever, then known as Swarr's fever. Christian Jr., married a Heistand, his wife died; they had children of whom I have no record. John, third son of Christian, married Miss Dellinger, they have sons and daughters. He is extensively engaged in farming and is a much respected citizen of East Hempfield township. Reuben, the youngest son, married Miss Shoop of Manor township. He is a carpenter by occupation, living in Chicago, Ill.

JOHN SWARR, the oldest son of Uncle Peter Swarr, married Susan Frick, they had two sons and seven daughters. Eliza, the oldest daughter, married Henry Hershey, they had one son named Adam, who married Miss Baer, daughter of Jacob Baer, of near Rohrerstown, who was noted in his time as manufacturer of the celebrated J. B. whiskey. They have children and as a whole, it is a highly respected family of East Hempfield. Mary Ann, second daughter, is single and lives with one of her sisters in Landisville. Susan, third daughter, married Christian Hershey, who was an extensive farmer and good citizen; they had children. Phares S. Hershey, now of Quarryville, married Elmira Risser, they carried on farming prosperously as also as also cattle feeding and stock raising. His wife died some years ago. They have one son, Howard, who married Miss Reinhart. One daughter, Gertrude, married Walter Aument who is a coal and lumber dealer at Quarryville. Anna, youngest, is single. Rev. Harvey Hershey of Landisville, is the youngest son of Christian. One of the daughters, Ellen, married Samuel L. Nissley, they were engaged at farming in East Hempfield, afterwards removed to East Drumore, where they followed the same work and raised tobacco, but sold their farm and live retired at Landisville. Susan, another daughter, married a New-comer, they are farming in West Hempfield. I have no further record of the family. Barbara married Christian Miller, they are engaged in farming and own one of the finest located farms along the Lancaster and Lititz pike and trolley line. Martha married Daniel Forey from Manor township, where they extensively engaged in farming. They live retired in Lancaster. One of their daughters married Rev. John Moseman.

Sarah, sixth daughter of John Swarr, married Henry Bowers, who was for a time, connected with several of his brothers in the extensive distillery plant at Rohrerstown, when he withdrew and went to farming and tobacco raising. and for a time, was engaged in buying tobacco for the packers. They have children of whom I have no account. Fanny, the youngest, married B. Frank Heiss from near

Columbia, where they largely engaged in, and raised tobacco. He was a shrewed business manager. They have children of whom I have no record.

AARON, the youngest son of John Swarr (who was my cousin) married Miss Minnick, from near Lititz, he farmed on his father's farm, which he purchased afterward, it being part of the 1000 acre grant to my great-grandfather. Aaron was a very successful manager, they had five children, three sons. Henry married Miss Cassel and went to farming. Hiram is married and is in the employ of the Spreckels extensive sugar refinery, of Philadelphia. John Jr. is married, he was noted as a successful school teacher. He is in the employ of the United States government as railway mail clerk and is also elected school director of East Hempfield township. Amanda, the oldest daughter of Aaron Swarr, married Samuel Root; he was farming. They have no children. He rented his farms and removed to Landisville, where he built a fine residence and warehouse and has become largely engaged in packing leaf tobacco. The second daughter of Aaron Swarr, Lizzie, married Phares Baker, who was a noted school teacher of East Hempfield and operated, at the same time, a large farm and in connection, raised from 10 to 12 acres of tobacco. So by his integrity, he amassed quite a fortune. He resides at Landisville, where he connected himself with his brother-in-law, Mr. Root, and they are today, one of the heaviest rural tobacco packing firms in the county.

BENJAMIN F. SWARR, the oldest son of my cousin, John Swarr, and the oldest Swarr now living that we have any record of, is now 81 years old. He married Miss Mary Lemmon. He was in the general store business at Landisville and Salunga, associated with my brother M. M. Swarr, they sold out about 1859. He went to farming and raising tobacco. They had children, the oldest son, Lemmon, married a Miss Haverstick and lives near Columbia; Harvey, is married and is employed in the office of Cramps Ship Yards, Philadelphia; Frank, is a dentist practicing in Lancaster city.

The oldest daughter of Benjamin Swarr, Lillie, married Herman Long, of East Hempfield, his father died and he came into possession of his farm, which is one of the finest in the township. Mr. Long is a progressive farmer, he being one of the pioneer potato raisers, and by his shrewd management, attained not only a good reputation, but amassed something for a rainy day. He now has a son to farm and he, with his family, live retired in Landisville, where B. F. Swarr, father of Mrs. Long, expects to pass the remaining days allotted to him. The other daughter is married to a professor, who is teaching school in New York city.

NOW WE WILL START ON MY GRANDFATHER'S SECOND FAMILY.

My Grandfather JOHN SWARR married grandmother in 1785, they had five children. Maria, the oldest daughter, was born 1786, she married Jacob Bassler. Uncle died 1865, aunt, died 1878, aged 92 years. They had two sons and two daughters, one of the daughters, Martha, married Mr. Kauffman. They moved to Cumberland county, were occupied in farming and raised a highly respected family of sons and daughters. The other daughter married Daniel Kreider, they too, followed farming. They both died about middle age. They had two sons and three daughters, two of them, Anna and Maria, married two Kauffman brothers. Maria, married Isaac, they had sons and daughters. Isaac died young and his wife soon after.

Anna, married Benjamin Kauffman, they have two daughters and six sons. Rev. Hiram is a preacher in the Mennonite church at Landisville and Salunga. Amos, is a Deacon of the same denomination, at East Petersburg, and the others, Benjamin, Daniel, Aaron and Reuben, are consistent members of the same church. They all have their own farms and are highly respected citizens of East Hempfield. Benjamin, the father, lives retired in East Petersburg and I think, the two daughters with him.

Lizzie, married Abram Stauffer, of East Donegal, where they own and operate a splendid farm. They have a family of boys and girls and are members of the Mennonite church.

Daniel Kreider's son Daniel married Miss Grabill, They were farming very successfully. The wife died some years back and Mr. Kreider, died since 1909. They had one son, Amos, and daughter Alice, who is single and kept house for her father, who lived retired at East Petersburg. She is an amicable lady. Amos, the son, is married and operates one of his father's farms, and is a respected, unassuming citizen

Abraham Kreider (the second son of Daniel Kreider Sr. and grandson of my Uncle Jacob Bassler) married Miss Sallie Stauffer, daughter of the late Tobias Stauffer, coal and lumber dealer and farmer, of Salunga, Lancaster county. Mr. Kreider followed school teaching, both in East and West Hempfield townships, for a number of years and was for a time, connected with his father-in-law in the manufacture, quite extensively, of cigars and raising tobacco; also, in packing leaf tobacco and of later years, engaged in scrivening and conveyancing and civil engineering. I do not intend to describe the extent of his practice in the last mentioned business, but am led to believe, that by his ability and integrity, he has secured the confidence and respect of those who know him, which is something precious to enjoy. Mr. and Mrs. Kreider have one daughter, she is married, and with her husband resides in Philadelphia.

MAGDALENA, my aunt, father's youngest sister, was born September 9, 1793. She married Samuel Pfautz. They had four sons and two daughters. Martha married a Shenk. They had two daughters, Matilda of whom I lost trace, and Anna, the youngest, who grew to womanhood and was an amicable lady. She married Henry Gamber, a much respected young man in whom, there was no guile. They engaged in farming and had the pleasure

of enjoying the high esteem of their neighbors. They had children, especially, I know they have sons of whom they may well feel glad, and thankful to God from whom all blessings flow. The parents of Mr. and Miss Gamber, are both deceased.

The other daughter of my Uncle and Aunt Pfautz, named Maria, married Martin Fry, whose business was farming and distilling. They resided northeast of Hinkletown. They had sons and daughters, one of the girls, Adaline, married Abram Wenger, who was a coach maker, worked in Philadelphia and later worked in connection with his brother Jacob, at Paradise, Lancaster, county. They have children, daughters who are engaged in school teaching. Mr. and Mrs. Fry had two younger daughters and four sons, John, Albertus, Jefferson and Martin, and it seems that all these sons had a strong propensity to go west. After some counselling among themselves, the four sons, mother and two daughters, went to Missouri, bought a large tract of land and went to farming. They improved their land, bought cattle, grazed them and soon became large dealers in cattle and horses. Some of them got married and have families, some died, and those living prospered, are well doing and much respected citizens.

The four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Pfautz, grew to manhood and all of them had an inclination to go West. John, the oldest went to Lancaster county, Ohio, was not there very long until he died (single). The others were noted for their industrious habits. Jacob, lived at our house and worked. Samuel learned the milling business. They were gifted with comprehensive minds, and all seemed to enjoy reading and talking about the far West, and could explain and reason as though they had seen it, before they ever were out of Lancaster county.

Samuel came to our house in the spring of 1847, soon after, my father and mother had died of typhoid fever, then called Swarr's fever. Samuel Pfautz took it also, but soon got well, when the three Pfautz brothers, Martin, Samuel

and Jacob, started for the West. When they got to Lancaster to take the train, they met Joseph Retzer, then a young man, and also William and Thomas Pusey from Drumore township, Lancaster county. These six young men started for the West and went to the neighborhood of Lisbon, Iowa, where they spent the winter. The Pfautz boys worked at coopering, making flour barrels. During the winter months they would get together and have their fun and talk about the gold mines of California, as at that time the gold fever ran very high. Five of them, the three Pfautzes and the two Puseys, arranged with some others, to emigrate across the continent. They had teams to take provisions on the trip, but I do not remember how long they were on the way. They got there, some of them working for themselves and some for wages, as wages were very high as well as every thing else. I was told, it was very dangerous when one worked at digging and found gold, you were in danger of being robbed. It was full of men working in the mines, and when you had gold there was danger to have it in the pocket and equally so, to bury it in the ground, for fear some one else would find it while digging. To take it to San Francisco, the fare from the mines and return, was sixty-five dollars.

Some of the Pfautzes came back well off, but I do not know how much they had when they left the diggings. Martin started to come to Pennsylvania, but came as far as Ohio, where he took sick and died. Samuel and Jacob started later, Jacob coming on to Lancaster county. I met him soon after his arrival in Lancaster city, when he told me, that he received a letter, the day before he left California, which I had written to him over a month before. I think, he told me he had to pay 65 cents postage. My cousin Samuel, came back as far as Iowa, where he remained and got married. They had children, one a daughter, Miss Anna, who, after her father had died, came to Pennsylvania to visit relatives of her father. She came to our house an entire stranger, but not long, for a person endowed with so much intelligence and possessing such a comprehensive mind, will readily become acquainted. I

am sorry I am not able to give the maiden name of cousin Samuel Pfautz's wife, as it is a credit to be blest with a family of children, that bring sunshine wherever they go, and create happy feelings and good wishes.

My Uncle JACOB SWARR, was born November 11, 1790, Samuel, a twin brother died young. Jacob married Anna Behm, daughter of Jacob Behm, a prominent farmer of Londonderry, Lebanon county, on September 15, 1818. They had three children, Anna M., born September 9, 1819; Hiram B., born March 9, 1821, and Elizabeth A., born June 12, 1828. Anna M., died November 13, 1822; aged 3 years, 2 months and 4 days. Elizabeth A., died August 25, 1833; aged 5 years, 2 months and 13 days. Uncle Jacob died in Campbellstown, Londonderry township, Lebanon county, September 11, 1828, aged 37 years and 8 months, and was buried in the Union Lutheran and Reformed grave yard, connected with the church at Campbellstown. The young daughters are also buried there and his wife Anna, who was 82 years old.

The son of Jacob Hiram B. Swarr, deceased, who was a prominent lawyer of Lancaster, married Frances Osborne Toby, daughter of Simeon and Sarah Elliott Toby, December 16, 1847. They had three children that are still living, Charles Jacob, who married a Miss Schroder, they reside in the residence at the north-west corner of East King and Ann streets, Lancaster city. He is extensively engaged in the coal business. Sallie Elliott, oldest daughter of H. B. Swarr, was married to Rev. Ellis N. Kremer. They are residents of Harrisburg, where he has held a pastoral charge, for quite a number of years and are held in high esteem. Mary Brooks Swarr married Rev. B. F. Bausman, pastor in charge of the Reformed church in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. They have a host of friends wherever they are known.

MARTIN SWARR, my father, was born October 25, 1788. He was twice married, his first wife was a Miss Heistand. They had two children, John H. and Martha



The author, Mr. John M. Swarr, was one of the subscribers to the original stock for the Millersville School.

H. Swarr. The daughter, Martha, married Jacob Bassler, a farmer of Manheim township, where they lived and operated the farm very successfully. He was noted as an extensive cattle feeder, and was a shrewd business manager and an active and useful man in the affairs of the township, acting in the capacity of school director. He was unassuming and a much respected citizen. They had one son, John S. and a daughter, Anna S. The daughter married Samuel R. Landis, a farmer, and for a number of years, lived on the farm where Mr. Landis was raised, which he operated very profitably. Having no children, they concluded to rent the big farm and purchase a small farm, of about 17 acres, in Manheim township, along the Lititz pike at the intersection of the Lancaster and Oregon turnpike, close to the city limits, where they have a very pleasant home and a place where many love to spend some time, in the enjoyment of there hospitality. Mr. and Mrs. Landis are much respected citizens.

John S. Bassler, the son, married Miss Harriet Royer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Royer. They operated the large farm, where Mr. Bassler was born and raised in Manheim township, for a number of years, when he concluded to divide the farm. He had new farm buildings erected on one end of the farm, with modern improvements, where he moved and made toils and cares more easy, and had a man on the other farm to operate. Mr. Bassler is a good business manager and like his father, made and knew how to save money. They have one son Harry, and one daughter Anna. The son married Miss Cassel and started farming, the parents purchasing a fine home on North Lime street, Lancaster city, where they live retired and are well contented without meddling with other people's business. Their daughter Anna married Mr. Snyder, a druggist of Lancaster city, who purchased what was, at one time, know as the McGrann house on North Queen street, where he carried on a very lucrative drug trade. Mr. Snyder died and left surviving him, a widow and some children. She resides in the city.

JOHN H. SWARR, my half brother, was born 1818, died 1886, aged 68 years. He married Elizabeth Pifer. My father bought a farm, in Manheim township, of 175 acres, where he started brother John at farming. He operated the farm on shares, and got along successfully. They had six sons and one daughter named Lizzie Ann, who married David H. Gochnauer of East Petersburg, where he was engaged in general merchandise business. He then erected a magnificent dwelling, warehouse and implement shedding and started an implement and fertilizer business. He now is engaged by the International Harvester Company as general agent and proves the right man in the right place. They have boys and girls some are grown and all are industrious and well doing.

The oldest son of John H. Swarr, Phares P., married Miss Amanda Minick, of near Lititz. They started farming on one of his farther's farms, it being part of the original 1000 acres owned by my great-grandfather, he managed well and made money and bought the farm from his father, at \$200 an acre (who did not think he was to pay any money out on it) and on the first of April, he told his father he wants to give him some money, the father said he had no place for it. The father took the money, two thousand dollars, and deposited it in an individual bank in Lancaster and soon after the institution closed its doors, he losing nearly all. Phares P. and wife have one daughter, she married Milton Forney, who, since their marriage, was ordained to the ministry of the German Baptist congregation, in which capacity he is an ardent worker. He operates his father-in-law's farm, they living together and have a cheerful happy home abounding in hospitality.

MARTIN, the second son of my brother John H. Swarr, married Miss Maria Landis, daughter of the late Rev. John Landis, of East Hempfield. He purchased his father's farm for \$200 an acre, which was the old homestead where I was born, where my father was born, and was the home of my grandfather. On it stands, what is supposed to be the first brick house in that section and is still in good condition.

It is supposed that this mansion was built, in time of the revolution, when Swarr's large brick mill was erected on Swarr's Run, and another large brick house, corresponding in size and style with the other, had been erected on Swarr's grant along the mill race, between the mill and the first brick house mentioned, which was occupied and owned by a son-in-law of Swarr. They had Hessian prisoners employed, whom they secured from the barracks at Lancaster (who were skilled workmen) in the erection of the buildings. Martin P. Swarr and wife are both deceased. They had four children, who are still living and of mature age. The daughter, Saloam, married a Mr. Aungst, who is now deceased and left surviving a widow and some children. The oldest of the sons, Milton L., married a Miss Cassel. He purchased his father's farm, which is not only part of his grandfathers farm, but of his great-great-great-grandfather's. This is the home where I was born and many of my boyhood recollections endear this home to me.

Milton Swarr and wife are hand in hand in their vocation, socially and religiously, and a passing glance at the farm will divulge to the observer, the motto, that what is worth doing at all is worth doing right. He is a successful tobacco raiser and cattle feeder, and an ardent admirer of good horses. It seems a natural propensity among the Swarrs to have good horses.

Harry L., brother of Milton, is married and bought a fine home in Landisville, where he is raising tobacco and I think somewhat engaged in packing. He also has that love for fine driving horses and has the reputation of being a good judge and a skilled driver.

Martin L., youngest brother of Milton, is single and has his home with Milton, working on the farm. He is a prudent and very industrious young man, having the natural ability to please and entertain pleasantly the old and the young.

HIRAM P. SWARR. third son of John H., married Miss Wissler, the father erected a splendid set of farm buildings on one end of the old homestead farm and added 65 acres to

the new buildings for Hiram, who operated the farm. They had three sons, John, Hiram Jr. and Jacob, and one daughter, Lizzie. When the boys grew up, they concluded to get more land, and sold his East Hempfield township farm for \$211 dollars an acre, and purchased a farm of 114 acres in East Drumore township, near Mechanic's Grove, Lancaster county, where he made some improvements and has one of the finest farms in that section. After they lived some years in the southern end of the county, he purchased another farm adjoining on which the oldest son, Rev John now resides. John married Miss Anna Shaub and was ordained to the ministry of the Old Mennonite congregation, at Mechanics Grove Church. He no doubt keenly feels his high calling and the responsibility with which he is involved. God be with him. They have two children, Mary and John Jr.

Hiram Jr. married Miss Ida Rintz, and is extensively engaged in farming, on the Ross A. McConson farm, in East Drumore township. He is very industrious and honest, is well rewarded for his labor and makes good interest for his landlord's investment. They have two children, a daughter, Mildred and son, Harold. Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Swarr are much respected and are given to hospitality. Jacob's youngest son and daughter Lizzie are single, at home, and are truly a joy and blessing to the parents. They are all members of the Mennonite Church and much respected.

John Jr., fourth son of John H. Swarr, married a Miss Widmyer and are much respected citizens of Manheim borough. They have children, some are engaged in teaching school. I have lost trace, in part, of the family, but I have the assurance that they are devoted members of their church and Sunday school.

Menno P., fifth son of John H., married Miss Jane Matter, they have children, sons and daughters. They reside at East Petersburg, where he is the owner of a fine

farm, which he operates very successfully and has the reputation for raising fine tobacco, and there is every indication of good management.

Ruben, the sixth and youngest son of John H., married a Miss Risser from Donegal township, who is now deceased. Surviving her is the husband and one son, Reuben Jr., and one daughter, Mabel, who is a trained nurse. The senior member of the family is engaged packing leaf tobacco at Landisville, Lancaster county, and has the reputation of putting up the finest packings. I think the son is engaged with the father. They are respected citizens.

My father MARTIN SWARR, was born 1788, and was a son of John Swarr, born 1740, who was a son of Peter Swarr, who was born 1690, near the city of Strasburg, Alsace Province, France. He married Adaline Blooming, who was a native of the city of Strasburg. They left France on account of the persecutions waged against the protestants, himself and family being Huguenots. They emigrated for America, in 1715, and landed at Philadelphia in the spring of 1716, but they left for the interior, arriving at what is now Lancaster city. He secured a land grant just one and one-half miles west, where he erected buildings and had a fine farm, but soon after their arrival, he got a grant of 1000 acres, about three and one-half miles farther northwest, on the north side of the kings highway, along what was known as Swarr's Run, where Christian, Peter, Martin and Jacob, had their farms, all grand-sons of Peter the founder of the family in this country.

Martin, my father, occupied the farm where grandfather lived and died at the advanced age of 87, grandmother also died there, at the age of 90. My father died there at the age of 58, and my mother 48. My parents died at a time, that I think they were most needed, it was a time when the older ones were looking forward for the future issues of life, and when a parent's counsel might be very acceptable and profitable.

Notwithstanding, however, they died and the family had to be parted. My oldest sister, Anna, was 20 years old and the youngest was 10 years old, my youngest brother was 12. My half sister, who was married to Jacob Bassler and were farming, took the two youngest and provided for them, they worked and went to the district school. My brother Amos got along well in school and went several sessions to White Hall Academy, in Cumberland county, then he taught school several sessions. When the Millersville Normal was started, he went there for several seasons and from there he went to Andover University, of Mass., where he studied law. He then located in Rochester, New York, where he was pursuing his law studies, when he took typhoid fever (the same disease which was called Swarr's fever) and died. He was a bright scholar and had the reputation of being a good orator.

My youngest sister, Susan, remained with her step or half sister until she was grown, when she got sick of scrofula and was in misery, having sore eyes at times, that she could not bear any light. She would have sore throat that she almost choked, and the doctors here could not help her case, so concluded, she should go to Danville, New York, to take the water cure. She stayed there and took treatment for several years, when she recovered, got fresh and hearty, and married Rolandus Houck. They then moved near Winchester, Virginia, where they farmed for over 25 years. They then rented the farm and bought a property in Winchester and lived retired. She died there. Mr. Houck intends to spend his remaining day in the South.

Anna, my oldest sister, married Joel Wenger of West Earl township, where they were engaged in farming. Mr. Wenger was a good farmer, but he had learned milling, which occupation he seemed to like better. He sold the farm and purchased Wolf's large new mill, at Brownstown, and at once put in the latest improved machinery, which made it one of the best mills in the county. He had a good demand for his flour and had a very large home trade. Mr. Wenger and his wife are both deceased. They had chil-

dren, those living are one son, Clayton S. Wenger, who came into the possession of the mill, which is principally used for an electrical plant to light Brownstown and drive machinery. Clayton married Miss Landis, daughter of the late Jacob Landis of Millersville, and sister of Hon. John H. Landis, superintendent of the United States Mint of Philadelphia.

Lizzie, the oldest daughter of Joel and Anna Wenger, married Amos Stauffer of East Lampeter township, where he owns one of the best farms in the township, the buildings throughout are fine. He has the farm rented and lives with his wife and two single daughters, who are amicable young ladies, in a fine home, retired and enjoys the comforts of modern conveniences. Their friends, who are many, are glad to meet in that home to share their hospitality. Mr. Stauffer has one son John, who married Miss Herr, daughter of C. R. Herr, and operates the farms of Mr. Herr, which are located in West Lampeter township. He is industrious and a very successful farmer and good citizen; they have a fine home and the family is worthy of the comforts it affords.

The second daughter of Joel Wenger, Sue, married Clarence Lichty, of Lancaster city. He was engaged in teaching for a number of years, but of late years had been in the insurance business, in which occupation he appears very successful. They have one daughter living by name Blanche, she married a Mr. Snavely a very interesting man and son of Benjamin and Anna (Herr) Snavely, now retired farmers of Lancaster city.

Alice, the youngest daughter of Joel and Anna (Swarr) Wenger, has her home in part with her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Lichty, Lancaster. She is single and is noted as a first class seamstress, and is often called into families to do sewing at fine work; and she is sure to bring sunshine with her wherever she goes. She has many kind friends and is much respected.

DAVID SWARR, my oldest full brother, was working on the farm till he was eighteen years old, when he entered the employ of John Stauffer, in a general merchandise store at Petersburg; from whence he got a situation in Philadelphia, with Anspach, Jacoby & Company, wholesale dry goods, on southwest corner of Third and Cherry streets, where his wages were \$400 the first year. They increased his wages from time to time and had him to do a great deal of traveling in the south and west, his wages then were \$1000 a year and expenses. When it seemed that the business was remunerative, the senior partner of the firm and owner of the property (that is the building) wished to retire, and they asked my brother to become a partner in the firm, his salary to go on at \$1000 a year. He told me that they offered him such a good chance, but he would have to borrow money, he not having enough capital. I told him I would not trust, but he thought it was a good thing and put all his own money in and borrowed thousands more and put in the firm, then the concern broke and he lost all his money. He then went to New York, where he was in the employ of Teft, Griswold & Company, when one of the firm begged him to go partner in a big scheme. When the other member died, as he intended to use the firm's money and pay it back soon, but the death spoiled that arrangement. I had to suffer, but I do not blame him of being dishonest.

MARTIN JR., my next oldest brother, worked on the farm till he was seventeen years old, when he took the apprenticeship for a carpenter. He served his term and worked journeyman for some time, when he, with our cousin B. F. Swarr, started in the mercantile business at Landisville, under the firm name of M. M. & B. F. Swarr. They did a good business for some years, when they sold out and started the business at Salunga, where they had a good trade, but my brother thought he could do better by going to Philadelphia, and as they had a good chance to sell, they did so. When he got to the city, he found it was not so easy for a man of his age and experience, to jump into a good thing. He stayed at the Eagle Hotel,

227 North 3rd street, where he was offered his board if he would help serve the table, which he did. In a short time, they wanted him to go into the office and assist there, when finally, they had him attending to it alone, also, turning over to him the superintendency of the house; he getting \$100 a month, board and washing. He remained at that place over fifteen years, the proprietorship changing two or three times, while he was there, he being retained by the new party. He then got married and bought the good will and fixtures of the Great Western Hotel, on Market street. After starting business and having put his money in it, he found his title to the place was no good, which was a big loss to him. As his reputation was good, he was employed by Israel Johns an old Quaker, who had a real estate and collection agency, who entrusted him with the whole business, he remaining there about eighteen years, when the old man died. He had a will made and had two executors appointed, who found there were some important trusts that could not well be closed out at once, so they retained my brother, as he was acquainted with the business and knew everything in the office, to close out the business and file an account, which he did creditably, it taking over two years. My brother Martin and his wife live on the northeast corner of Tenth and Pine streets, aged nearly 80 years. They never had any children.

My father Martin Swarr, married his second wife, my mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Mellinger, daughter of David Mellinger, of Manor township. They lived on the old homestead farm, where my father was born; to them being born four sons and two daughters, that lived to a mature age. My father took sick and died in a short time, on February 5, 1847, aged 58 years, 3 months and 10 days; mother took sick and died March 3, 1847, aged 48 years. The doctors that were attending them, were John Atlee, Lancaster; John Ream, Hempfield, and Samuel Parker, Petersburg; they were puzzled to give the sickness a name, when it took the name of Swarr's Fever, but soon afterwards they pronounced it typhoid. When I had the same fever, about nine years afterwards, Mr.

Parker told me, that they did not know what to name it when my parents died of it ; at that time there were eleven of the Swarrs sick at one time. I was surprised about six months ago, when P. McManus the railroad contractor, asked me if I am one of the Swarrs that had Swarr's fever, as he, being a boy at that time, was visiting at his uncle, John McGovern, who was a friend of my father. That is now, over sixty years ago, but I have met before with old people, who asked the same question. My father was a person that was well known, he was tall and weighed about 250 pounds, his face seemed to be the very bloom of health, and when he was sick, the doctors said that a person of his build is hard to pull through.

My father was much engaged away from home, he having many estates to settle. He took a great interest in having the free school system established and to employ good teachers ; I know that he worked to have able men as teachers, who were not willing to work for the wages. He offered to board them free of charge and in that way, procured some of the very best teachers. I think, East Hempfield township, was one among the first to have free schools, and I think, to-day, it ranks as one of the best in the county.

From my boyhood recollections, I am led to think that he had science, as I know, by him being taken into counsel by the neighbors, and by the manner we boys were trained. There was a place for each thing and each thing was to be in its place, when not in use. When we boys went to bed, each was to have his place for his hat and coat, for his shoes or boots, so that when we were called in the morning, there was no hunting for our clothes or shoes, and the lantern was at its place, so that we were not long in getting to the barn. We used to fatten 2 stables of cattle, one stable of cows, and one of young cattle, we also, had one stable of horses and often had colts. It required not much questioning, as each of us knew what he was to do, one went to feed and clean the horses and two went for the steers, one cleaned the troughs and the other

gave in short feed, then went to the next stable until we were through, after which, we had to bed the stables before the cattle would lay down; we never forgetting to have the straw in the stable the evening before; if there were any of the cattle that refused to eat, we well knew it was our duty to report. We were not allowed to go over the week without greasing our boots or shoes, or wearing them when they got holes, as we were to keep our feet dry and shoes soft. It makes me think of it when I see boys or men hav- hard or red worn shoes on and since I am farming, I have a grease pan with a brush in it and many times greased the shoes for my workmen.

I was fourteen years old when my parents died and then I had to go among strangers, who were all very kind to me, I working for my board the first summer and went to the district school in the winter. I had a guardian, who never looked after me. He being well off, and having no children of his own, appeared to think I was able to take care of myself, which I did after a kind; but it was at a time, when it is important that a boy of that age should have some good counsellor, that would take an interest in his future welfare. I always had plenty of kind friends, but being in a neighborhood where I was a stranger, I got into company that was older than I, who had their own teams and would take me to church or places of amusement, and especially, would they like to go along with me to visit my relatives, in order to become acquainted in that section, which was about twelve miles away. It was not long, until I wanted my own team, and had one of the best; I having some horse pride, studied the horse and his ailments and acquired some knowledge of medicine. I soon got in with horse dealers and somehow, got the reputation of being a good judge of horses and hadn't much trouble to sell a horse to men, who did not trust their own judgment. I became skilled in driving for speed and was offered big wages to drive fast horses and train them, but did not accept them.

I was asked by different men of business, to deal for the half profit, they to furnish the money. One farmer

told me to buy grain, or anything I thought there was money in, so I bought 1000 bushels of corn, which I very soon sold for \$50 profit. He got so wild, that he offered to deposit \$2000 in bank at my disposal, saying I should deal with it and give him half the profit. I refused. These people were especially kind friends, but the inducements held out to me, were not good for a young person, and thanks to God, that I was able to resist.

I went to Ohio with a man that brought a drove of cattle in, as he was a farmer and I had a desire to see the country. I helped to thrash, cut wood, spread manure and cut off corn; we drove through the country, he wanting to go partner with me to buy cattle and horses and bring them east to sell, but I did not take the offer as he would have wanted me to live out there. I gathered a lot of horses and his brother-in-law came along, we coming on horseback over the Allegheny mountains, which was a tiresome trip, being about four hundred miles. I sold the horses and went to an academy a few months to brighten up the limited education I did have. When a school teacher, at Roseville, Manheim township, resigned, the directors got at me to take that school, as they had some money that was donated to the house, before the public school system was inaugurated in the township, but they had no authority to use it in the general school fund. It was decided, I should teach long enough to exhaust that money, so I had that much experience in teaching. I worked on the farm in the summer and was clerking in a store awhile, and in the fall of 1854, I purchased the store and hotel property at Bareville, three miles west of New Holland, in Upper Leacock township, where I took possession at once. I then got married to Miss Maria Groff, daughter of Levi B. Groff. I did a good business, but the hotel part of the trade, I did not like and it being the best paying part and as the property was most too high priced to abandon it, I concluded to sell. I then purchased a farm of 40 acres, at \$194 an acre.

After some years there was a farm for sale of 114 acres, which was part of the 1000 acre grant to my great-grand-

father and adjoining the old homestead, where my brother lived and owned. My brother did not know that they wanted to sell, I told him and begged him to buy it. He said, he would like to have it, but he had no need for it yet. I then told him some other person would buy it and that he should go with me to the man that owned it, who lived about fifteen miles away. When we got to the place and found that he could buy it, he said, he would buy, if I promised to farm it; I sold my small farm and moved on his. My brother made the remark, that he did not want the farm and when it was found out by the neighbors, several came the next day, after he was at home, and offered to give \$1000 profit. I farmed that place for him seven years, without a scratch of writing, giving him \$100 grass rent and half of the grain and made money for him and myself, then my wife's uncle, B. B. Groff, near Bird-in-Hand, East Lampeter township, told me if I promised to move on his farm, he would put up a new house for himself and retire. I told my brother, he said, I needn't go away, but he would not keep me from taking that offer, as it was an extra good farm, so I went on that place without any written article and made money.

The fever for going to the South, soon after the Civil War, ran high and I concluded to go and see it, but as soon as it was reported that I was going to stop farming, I got word from East Hempfield township, my native place, from a man that had purchased a farm and had no one to move on it, but wished to operate the two farms himself. It was a very fine home and I went there without a written article; I farmed some tobacco, worked for the man by the day and liked it so well, that I was well satisfied without going South. During that summer, a neighbor farmer came and wanted me to take his farm, that was adjoining where I lived. His father-in-law wanted him to come on his place, which joined the place, where I lived on the opposite side, so it was handy for me to move. I promised to take that farm and in the spring moved on without any writing whatever; was there seven years and never had any differences.

In the mean time, I got somewhat acquainted in the southern end of the county, where I now live and expect to remain. It was about the year of 1883 or '84, I got to know anything of southern Lancaster county, when a friend of mine said he would like me to go with him to Quarryville and a few miles beyond, where he had a farm and intended to build a pig sty and wanted some one to assist in the selection of a site and style. I promised and we set a day to make the trip, my friend writing to his friend, James Collins, who lived on an adjoining farm, that we were coming on a certain day and that he would like to meet Mr. Collins on the farm, as Mr. Collins was superintending in part. Mr. Collins kindly invited his father, Thomas Collins, along to meet us, which was indeed a very social meeting. They were not entire strangers in the northern end of the county, the elder Collins having been county commissioner. They were able to give very intelligent information, that, together with my own observation, I came to the conclusion, that it was worth a man's time to become more acquainted with the country. I then, made it my business to get to gatherings, such as public sales, where I could meet different people and must say, that I was very favorably surprised, and am proud to say, that I believe, that the Scotch-Irish are as social and intelligent, as any other nationality, anywhere.

I purchased several different farms and small properties, but never with any craving to get rich fast and hoard up money. My motto always was, not to let property decrease in value, live and let live and do to others as I would have others do to me. We had one son, Levi and two daughters, the oldest named Lizzie, who married Samuel C. Baer, son of Henry M. and Fanny (Kauffman) Baer, of East Hempfield township. Mr. Baer, our son-in-law, taught school in East Hempfield when single and after he was married and lived at Mechanics Grove, he was teaching in the Drumores and Quarryville, in all, he taught about twenty sessions.

During the summer, he worked on the farm and raised tobacco, for which he acquired a good reputation, as well

as for teaching. He always had very good luck, or perhaps I should call it pluck, in raising plants and getting them well started. He sold his property at Mechanics Grove and built at Quarryville, where he manufactured cigars and raised tobacco, and also was Justice of the Peace. When the low grade railroad was started to be built, he was employed by the John Shields Construction Company, as time keeper, but soon was assigned paymaster and had full charge of the office and in connection, they engaged his daughter, Anna, to assist him as typewriter and stenographer. When that work was finished, P. McManus engaged Mr. Bare on a railroad job, at Winbur, Somerset county, when that work was finished, he was sent to the Philadelphia office and then, when they got a contract at Parkesburg, Pa., he acted as time keeper, also doing the office work. When that was done, Mr. McManus engaged him to superintend his farms at Pomeroy. Mr. and Mrs. Baer have one son, Charles Chester, who is a druggist, he married Miss Mable Coulter of Bartville. They live in Oxford, Chester county, where Mr. Baer is engaged in the drug business and enjoys quite a large patronage and have a host of friends.

The Baers have two daughters, the oldest Anna, married James T. S. Shaub, of Lancaster city, who is engaged at electrical work by the Bell Telephone Company, with headquarters at Scranton, Lackawanna county, Pa.

Edna, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Baer, is single and is at home with her parents, at Pomeroy, Chester county and is attending the Stevens High School, at Lancaster, where she enjoys the reputation of a bright scholar and manifests quite a talent for music.

Mary, youngest daughter of J. M. and Maria Swarr, married J. R. L. Acheson, son of the late Charles and Lucinda (Kyle) Acheson, of Mechanics Grove, Lancaster county, where he was engaged in general merchandising for a time. When his parents were deceased, he engaged in farming and tobacco raising and when they settled up

the estate and sold the farm, they moved to Philadelphia, he taking a position as conductor on the street car line. Then his wife took sick and died, left surviving her husband and one daughter, Anna, who was eleven years old when her mother died ; the mother was buried at Quarryville cemetery, Lancaster county, where they have four children buried, who died when quite young. Mr. Acheson is engaged principally, since the death of his wife, as assistant superintendent on railroad work. He was working in Canada for a time, and now he is on a job at Jersey City.

His daughter Anna is a student in the graduating class of the State Normal School, at Millersville, where she has won laurels. She had the honor of christening the new Low Grade Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad at its completion. She has her home with her grand-parents, J. M. Swarr, at Mechanics Grove.

LEVI SWARR, son of J. M., is married to Mary Shenk, daughter of Rev. Tobias Shenk, of East Hempfield township. They have three daughters, Katie, who married Dallas R. Bomberger, of Fulton township and who are much respected ; Annie and Lizzie, both single and living with their parents, to whom they are a blessing and are much esteemed. Levi Swarr is operating his father's farm successfully and is a much respected citizen. He purchased a fine home from his father, but does not intend to occupy it himself for the present.

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