

joined in wedlock to Susanna Lantz, who died in 1872 aged eighty-four years. Four children were the results of this union, namely: Michael; John; Mary M.; and Sarah A.

Michael Heller, the father of our subject, was born on the old homestead in Mifflin township, September 8, 1823, and carried on farming the greater part of his life. He also learned the trade of a blacksmith from his father when he was a boy and carried on blacksmithing to a large extent. He was very successful in his chosen occupations and added considerable land to the original homestead. Mr. Heller was widely known throughout Columbia County and was held in high esteem for his many sterling qualities which stand as an example to the rising generation. He was a strong Republican in politics, and, in a Democratic town, he was elected three times as poormaster, which tends to show his popularity and the respect in which he was held by his fellow-citizens. Religiously he was a member and deacon of the German Reformed Church. Socially he was a member of Lodge No. 246, I. O. O. F., of Mifflin. He formed a union with Mary Ann Hetler, a daughter of Michael Hetler of Columbia County, and the following children were born to them: Francis Whitney; Hiram Westley, the subject of this sketch; Christopher Columbus; Sarah Catherine; John Madison; Harriet Alice; and Morris M. The last three died in their infancy. Mrs. Heller passed from this life in 1863. Our subject's father formed a second matrimonial alliance with Elizabeth Smoyer, a daughter of Peter Smoyer. Seven children were the results of this union, namely: Alfred B.; Amanda, deceased; Wilson A., deceased; Rush M.; William H.; Martha M.; and one who died in infancy. The father of our subject died on the old homestead in 1893.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the old homestead and followed the pursuits of an agriculturist until 1881, when he accepted a position as coachman for C. R. Woodin, in which he proved himself honest, faithful and reliable, and was rewarded by being made general servant. When Mr. Woodin purchased "Berwick Heights" and built a magnificent residence, our subject was given charge of the same, and has held that position to the present. Mr. Heller has crossed the Atlantic Ocean three times and has traveled extensively through the Eastern Hemisphere, and also through most of the states of the Union. Mr. Heller devotes his entire time and attention to the trust bestowed upon him; he is a gentleman of refined principles, and has won hosts of friends who hold him in high esteem.

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**J**EREMIAH JOHN BROWER. This honored and esteemed pioneer citizen of Columbia County, who resides in the town of Bloomsburg, is passing his sunset days in ease and comfort, enjoying the reward of his early industry and perseverance. He has been identified with the interests of Columbia County for more than a half-century and has long been recognized as one of its best citizens, aiding and maintaining it in reaching its present position among the first-class communities of the state. He was born in Browertown, Union township, Berks County, Pa., April 10, 1821, and is a son of John and Fanny (Millard) Brower, and a grandson of Abraham Brower.

John Brower, the father of our subject, was a resident of Union township, Berks County, where he was engaged in the manufacture of grain-scoops, door-locks, and various other specialties. He was wedded to Fanny Mil-

lard, who was of Quaker descent, and they reared two children: Jeremiah J., the subject of this sketch; and Matilda, the wife of Richard Jones.

Jeremiah J. Brower received a good education in the public schools and before he was seventeen years of age he was teaching in Catawissa and was known as an excellent teacher in penmanship. In 1848 he embarked in the mercantile business at Mifflinville, Columbia County. In 1850 he sold his store and moved to Bloomsburg, where he opened and conducted a large store on the corner of Main and Iron streets for a period of nineteen years. He then erected the Paul E. Wirt block and carried on his business in that building until 1870, when he was elected justice of the peace and served in that position for a term of ten years. In 1881 he began dealing in carpets and oil-cloth and remained in that business until he retired from active business. He was succeeded by his grandson, William H. Brower, who is now successfully carrying on the business.

In 1853-54 Mr. Brower built the beautiful residence, No. 229 Market street, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars, one of the finest brick residences in the town of Bloomsburg. Our subject takes an active part in the growth and welfare of his community and always lends a helping hand toward any measure that tends to benefit his fellow-citizens. He has assisted in forming four building and loan associations; has served as secretary and treasurer of the Mutual Building and Saving Fund Association; and has served as treasurer of the Masonic lodge about twenty-seven years. He has also been a stockholder and officer in many industries started in Bloomsburg, and was one of the chief promoters of many industries that have led to the building up of the community.

In 1841 Mr. Brower was united in marriage to Eliza Brothwell, a daughter of Dr. Eleazer Brothwell of Mifflinville. His wife departed this life in 1893, at the age of seventy-six years six months and two days, leaving the following children: Fanny J., wife of James K. Brugler; Eleazer B.; Ada Eveline, wife of L. S. Wintersteen; and Mary Eliza, who married J. H. Lingle.

Mr. Brower is one of the foremost citizens of his county and is highly respected and honored for his sterling worth and integrity as a neighbor, a gentleman and a citizen.

JOSEPH E. A. SOWERS, a substantial and influential citizen of Shamokin, Coal township, was born August 19, 1842, in Spring City, Chester County, Pa., and is the son of Abner and Elizabeth (Taney) Sowers. Both his paternal and maternal ancestors were residents of Chester County; the former being of German and the latter of French origin.

Abner Sowers, our subject's father, was born on his father's farm in Chester County, Pa., and spent the greater portion of his life near Royer's Ford, where he followed farming, but later in life worked in a mill. He died leaving a widow and two children: Joseph E. A., our subject, and Annie, now deceased, formerly wife of Rev. Henry Chapman, an Episcopalian minister. After the death of his father our subject's mother was again united in marriage, wedding William Wilcox, now deceased. One son was born to them, and bears his father's name, William Wilcox, and is now a resident of Bethlehem, Pa. His mother now resides in Philadelphia.

Joseph E. A. Sowers received a common school education at Norristown, Montgomery County, Pa., after which he entered the roll-

ing mills of that place. He subsequently left Norristown and went to Pottsville and there learned the molder's trade, which occupation he followed until he entered the Union Army in the War of the Rebellion. In 1861 he enlisted in Company I, 52d Reg., Pa. Vol. Inf., and served as sergeant for three years and five months. He was with Gen. McClellan and took an active part in the Peninsular campaign; was on duty in North Carolina, South Carolina, on James Island in front of Fort Sumter, at Yorktown, and was finally taken prisoner July 3, 1864, at Fort Johnson, on Morris Island.

After his capture at Fort Johnson he was taken to Charleston, S. C., thence to Andersonville, Sumter County Ga., where he remained three months and shared with his fellow-comrades prison life in the "hell of all hells" known to mankind on this earth. The total of Union prisoners received at this notorious prison during the war was 49,845; of this number 12,926 died. He was transferred from Andersonville Prison to Florence, S. C., where he was imprisoned for two months and then paroled. At the close of his military service he returned to Pottsville, where he employed himself for one year, after which he located at Port Carton, accepting charge of the foundry for J. R. Boyer. Mr. Sowers continued working there for several years, operating the foundry with ability and success, and discontinued the same only to accept the more lucrative position of foreman of the molding department with John Mullen & Son, at Shamokin, December 21, 1875.

Our subject was united in marriage with Ella Lord, October 25, 1866, and their home was blessed with five children, one being now dead. The living children are: Harry, who married Katie Miller and has two bright children, Essie and Frank,—he is a machinist in

the employ of John Mullen & Son; Elizabeth; Harvey B., who married Frances Burner, and is a molder, also in the employ of John Mullen & Son; and Ella May. The two daughters, Elizabeth and Ella May, are still at home; both are affable young ladies, and to their presence is greatly due the sunshine and happiness which gladdens the hearts of their parents.

Mr. Sowers is a man who has rendered eminent services in various fields of labor. He has been faithful in all the relations of life and is a most valued member of society. His interests politically are identified with the Republican party. Socially he is a member of the following lodges: Shamokin Lodge No. 255, F. & A. M.; Shamokin Chapter No. 264, R. A. M.; Shamokin Commandery, K. T.; and is also a member of Lincoln Post No. 140, G. A. R.

CHARLES H. CAMPBELL, who is a veteran of the Civil War and was for many years connected with the many leading industries of Bloomsburg, is now living in retirement in that town and resides in a handsome and modern brick residence on Fifth street. He is a son of Joseph W. Campbell, and was born in Luzerne County, Pa.

Joseph W. Campbell was born in York County, Pa., in 1813 and was a good citizen and a reliable business man, accumulating a handsome competency during his active life. For many years he was foreman of construction on the North Branch of the Pennsylvania Canal, the duties of which position he performed up to the time of his death in 1878, at the age of sixty-five years.

Charles H. Campbell was reared and educated in his native county, after which he be-