

J. F. Ayle, New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa., was born in Lancaster County, Pa., December 27, 1842, son of **Henry** and **Catherine (Brenneman) Ayle**, who were natives of that County. **Henry Ayle** was a farmer; he removed to Perry County, where for some time he was supervisor of Centre Township. Having been during his years of strength and activity a skillful and successful agriculturist, he has now retired, and resides, with his wife, in Harrisburg, Pa. They are members of the Mennonite Church. **Mrs. Henry Ayle** is a daughter of **John Brenneman**, of Lancaster County. Their children are: **Elizabeth**, who died in 1844; **one** that died in infancy; **Annie**, died in 1861; **Benjamin**, died aged four years; **J. F.**, who is the eldest of the family; **Mary (Mrs. Augustus Seeger)**; **Susan (Mrs. David Swope)**, of Harrisburg; **Jacob**; **Martha (Mrs. Daniel Fickes)**; **Sarah (Mrs. George Kling)**; **Catherine (Mrs. John Owings)**; **Harry**; and **Margaret (Mrs. William Rafton)**.

Henry Ayle is of Irish descent; his father was a weaver, and carried on that business all his life, except that for some years he was engaged in butchering. He was a man so robust and so habituated to industry, that he was still in active business at the age of ninety; he died in 1872, aged ninety-six years and eleven months; his wife, who was **Miss Shoop**, died about 1851. They had two sons, of whom **one** died when an infant; **Mr. Henry Ayle** is the only survivor of the family. **Mrs. Ayle's** father, **Mr. John Brenneman**, was also a weaver who during the winter attended to butchering. He married **Miss Miller**. Their children are: **Catherine (Mrs. Ayle)**; **Elizabeth (Mrs. Christian Hahn)**; **Mary (Mrs. Joseph Miller)**; **Nancy**; **Fanny (Mrs. Isaac Herr)**; **John**; **Daniel**; **Joseph**; **Henry**; the last four are deceased.

Having received a common school education in Lancaster County, and learned much of farming, **J. F. Ayle** removed with his parents to Perry County in 1860, and worked with his father until the war of the Rebellion broke out. He was not quite twenty-one when, in August, 1862, he enlisted in a regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served until June 16, 1868. In August of the next year, he again enlisted, and served until the close of the war, being honorably discharged in 1865. **Mr. Ayle** saw much hard service during his gallant participation in the defense of the Union. He was in some of the most desperate battles, among them those of Petersburg, Chancellorsville, and Fort Steadman. At Petersburg, April 2, 1865, a shell struck him on the right side of the head, causing him to spend a month in the hospital, and leaving a wound which did not entirely heal for over two years. After the war, he continued to reside with his parents until he was married. In 1866, the year after his marriage, he began cultivating the farm on which he still lives; at that time, there was a flourishing business done in the saw-mill which is still standing on the place. **Mr. Ayle** has greatly improved the farm, by the erection of a new dwelling, barn, and all other necessary buildings. He has at present a fine garden and nursery, well cared for and very profitable. He has found time and inclination for some public business, in addition to his private concerns; has filled efficiently several township offices, and been inspector and clerk of elections; he served one term as school director. He belongs to the Jr. O. U. A. M., Lodge No. 626. Since 1874, he has been a member of Sergt. John Jones Post, No. 448, G. A. R., and is a quartermaster. **J. F. Ayle** was married, October 26, 1865, to **Catherine**, daughter of **William** and **Mary (Fry) Baker**. Their children are: **Harry**; **Annie (Mrs. John Rothmaker)**; **Addie**; and **David A.** **Mr. Ayle** is a Republican.