

Biographical Annals of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania; Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens and of Many of the Early Settled Families. Illustrated. Chicago: The Genealogical Publishing Co., 1905.

Jonathan Bear (deceased), for many years a prosperous farmer of West Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County, was a native of that township, born July 4, 1819. He was a grandson of **John Bear**, and a son of **Samuel Bear**, who married **Sarah Zeigler**, daughter of **Philip Zeigler**. They settled in what is now known as **Bear's** district, in West Pennsboro Township, and there **Mr. Bear** passed the remainder of his days, dying April 30, 1855, in his sixty eighth year. His widow died in Plainfield, Dec. 26, 1871, aged eighty years and five months. They were the parents of ten children, eight of whom reached maturity: **Catharine (Mrs. Steiner)**, **Jonathan**, **Mary (Mrs. Seitz)**, **Rebecca**, **Elizabeth**, **John**, **David** and **Philip**.

Jonathan Bear was reared and educated in his native township, and on commencing farming on his own account settled on the farm near Conedoguin Creek, where he resided until August, 1884. He then moved to the place which has since been the family home, a beautiful little tract of six acres near Elliottson, and also retained the ownership of a fine place of 132 acres in West Pennsboro Township, now owned by **S. L. Eppley**, his son-in-law. On Jan. 11, 1849, **Mr. Bear** married **Miss Maria Bear**, daughter of **Henry** and **Polly (Bear) Bear**, of Lancaster County, Pa., and to this union were born nine children, four of whom survive: **Abner**, **Mary (Mrs. Eppley)**, **Sarah** and **Elizabeth**, the two last named now living at the home in West Pennsboro left them by their father. **Abner** is living in Mechanicsburg; he married **Rebecca Huston**, and they have had five children: **Charles**, who is in New York; **Harry L.**, in Waynesboro; **Bessie M.**, who is teaching school in Mechanicsburg; and **Dale** and **Clarence**, who are still going to school. Of the deceased, **Ellen** died when seventeen years old; **Emma**, when fifteen; **Samuel**, when nineteen; and **Rebecca** and **Catharine** died when small. **Mr. Bear** lived retired for the last few years preceding his death, which occurred in 1895, and the wife passed away in 1896. He and his family adhered to the faith of the Reformed Mennonite Church. They are among the best people of the community, and the family has always been noted for thrift and integrity.

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