

Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania, Centre, Clinton, Union and Snyder County, Chicago, J. H. Beers and Company, 1898



**Beaver, Hon. James Addams**, a gallant soldier, statesman, jurist and Christian citizen of Bellefonte, Centre County, is another from that galaxy of great men that noble Bellefonte, the proud home of governors and distinguished men has produced, their names and deeds casting an illustrious halo o'er a finished century.

Although born near Millerstown, Perry County, Penn., it remained for **Gen. Beaver** to lay the foundation for his successes in life in Bellefonte. He has descended on his paternal side from one of the most forceful, industrious and successful families in Pennsylvania. A distinguished characteristic of the **Beaver family** through generations is courage, integrity, thrift and industry, and they have figured gallantly in all the wars which have been fought in this continent for over a century and a half. In speaking of the remarkable traits of the **Beavers**, a gentleman of prominence said that he "was well

acquainted with the uncles of ex-**Gov. Beaver**, and in all his intercourse with men he found them to be more successful and having a better knowledge of business than any men he knew." **Hon. Thomas Beaver**, an uncle of the subject of this sketch, now deceased, and who resided at Danville, Penn., for many years during his life, attained a position among the most prosperous merchants and iron manufacturers of the United States. While **Gov. Beaver** inherited valuable traits from his father's side, he is also indebted for much of his force, courage and industry to his mother. She was one of God's noble women, wise, generous, industrious, a devout Christian, and was loved and respected by every one that knew her. Those who knew her from childhood regarded her as a most remarkable woman. Her kind, sweet and generous disposition won the affection and confidence of every one. One who for several years resided near her home speaks in the highest terms of the respect, confidence and esteem she enjoyed among her neighbors and friends. It was these influences, coupled with his activity, energy and prominence, that have been the means of elevating this illustrious gentleman to the position of high honor and influence he occupies today.

**George Beaver**, the original founder of the family in this country, arrived here from Germany about the year 1740. Tradition says of him that "he was a man of fine physique, marvelous endurance, strong mind and untiring industry." He devoted himself with characteristic energy to agricultural pursuits. His eldest son, **George**, was among the first to shoulder a musket in the war of Independence, serving in the 4th Pennsylvania Battalion, commanded by Col. Anthony Wayne. This son, after the close of hostilities, married **Catherine Kieffer**, the sister of an army comrade, and from this union came **Peter Beaver**, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. He was born in Franklin County, Penn., received a good average education for the time, and when of age set up in business for himself as a tanner in Lebanon County. He soon abandoned

this occupation, however, and although he afterward engaged in different mercantile pursuits, seems to have devoted much of his time to religious work, and he acquired considerable distinction as a local preacher of the Methodist denomination. He married **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Samuel Gilbert**, who had seen some service in the Revolutionary army, and by her had a large family. All of the six sons were at some period of their lives engaged in general merchandising in Millerstown, on the Juniata. **Jacob** married **Ann Eliza Addams**, whose father, **Abraham Addams**, had come from Berks to Perry county about 1811. Two sons and two daughters were born to them, and, of these, **James Addams Beaver** is their third child and first son. The father died in 1840, and the widow in 1844 married the **Rev. S. H. McDonald**, of Millerstown, and removed with him and her family to Belleville, Mifflin County. Here **James** began his education at the district school, but not being possessed of a robust constitution, the years 1850-51-52 he spent at home, preparing under the guidance of his stepfather, who was a fine classical scholar, for an academic course.

In the latter part of 1852 he was entered at the Pine Grove Academy, and in a remarkably short time successfully passed examination for admission to the junior class of Jefferson College at Cannonsburg, Penn., of which he was the youngest member. In 1856 he was graduated from this institution with good standing in a large class. Some years afterward the Rev. James A. Reid, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Ill., in a historical sketch of his class, said: "**James A. Beaver**, better known in college days as 'Jim Beaver,' was a little bit of an enthusiastic fellow, full of fun and pun and pluck and frolic, who never did anything bad, but always looked glad. **James** has been growing bigger and bigger ever since he was born. His usual modesty has prevented him from giving me anything from his own pen, but his war record is so creditable to himself and so well known that there is no trouble in getting at the facts. **Gen. Beaver** is an active and devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, and as enthusiastic a general in the Sabbath-school work of the State as he was in the army of his country." Here we may add that in 1888 **Gen. Beaver** was elected by the Presbytery of Huntingdon to represent it in the Centennial meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America. He was appointed, by the moderator of the Assembly, vice-moderator, and as such presided at several meetings of the Assembly, being the first layman in the history of the Church who ever occupied that position.

After leaving college, young **Beaver** settled in Bellefonte, and entered the law office of **Hon. H. N. McAllister**, one of the most able and distinguished lawyers in the State, who died while a member of the convention which framed the new constitution of Pennsylvania. He applied himself with such assiduity to his studies, that January 24, 1859, when he had barely reached his majority, he was admitted to the Bar of Centre County. His industry and the painstaking care he exercised in all his work, the fact that he was so thoroughly grounded in the principles of the law, so ready in speech and argument, at once made an impression, and he was accounted a young lawyer of more than ordinary promise. His preceptor, recognizing his merit, and having need of such assistance as he could render in a large and important practice, took him into partnership. While preparing himself for the Bar he joined the Bellefonte Fencibles, under Capt. Andrew G. Curtin, soon to become famous as "Pennsylvania's War Governor." Like every task he undertook, **Beaver** put his entire soul into the work, was so attentive and obedient that before long he had attained great proficiency in drill. He gave much attention to the study of tactics, and an opening occurring he was made second lieutenant of the company. Then came the war. The firing on Fort Sumter had aroused the loyal North, but in no instance did the President's call for

75,000 volunteers to defend Washington meet with a more prompt response than in the picturesque little Pennsylvania town of Bellefonte. The Fencibles, indeed, had assembled, every man equipped for active duty, before the echoes of firing had died away. Writing to his mother at this time, we find **Lieut. Beaver** saying: "A dispatch from Washington says that hostilities have actually begun. The South Carolinians fired upon the 'Star of the West,' which contained supplies for Major Anderson. If this is true, which God forbid, war has actually commenced. Where will be the end.' The nation must be preserved. And who can mistake his duty in this emergency .' I have prayed for direction, guidance, and clear revelation of duty, and I cannot now doubt where the path of duty lies. If required, I will march in it, trusting in God for the result. There are few men situated as I am. No person dependent upon me, and a business which I will leave in able hands. If we have a nationality, it must be continued, supported, upheld. If we are ordered to Washington or elsewhere, I will see you before I go. God bless you my mother." "No hesitation here," says Col. Burr, his biographer, "but a sword leaping from its scabbard to do battle for conscience and for country; a noble, ready patriotism, which saw in the country's peril the call of a commanding duty." The young lawyer and lieutenant of militia, who took this bold stand while older men were hesitating, was not yet twenty-four years of age; but he displayed an appreciation of the situation, a foresight of events, and a realization of the mighty issues involved which would have done credit to much older heads.

The Bellefonte Fencibles were mustered into service as Company H, 2d P. V. I., Col. Frederick S. Stumbaugh commanding, on April 21, 1861, and were immediately dispatched by rail to Washington. The Confederates, however, by the burning of the bridge at Cockeysville, Md., prevented further progress, and the command was ordered to return to York. His regiment joined the column which operated under the command of Gen. Patterson in the Shenandoah Valley, being present at the skirmish called the battle of Falling Waters. In July the term of enlistment expired, and the men were duly mustered out at Harrisburg, on the 26th day of that month. **Lieut. Beaver**, however, had, previous to his muster-out, prepared to enter the service again; but this time he determined it would be "for the war." Aided by Thomas Welsh, lieutenant-colonel of the 2d Regiment of Lancaster County, and J. M. Kilbourne, of Potter County, he soon organized the 45th P. V. I. and it was mustered into service on October 18, 1861. At the election held for officers, Thomas Welsh was elected colonel, **Lieut. Beaver** lieutenant-colonel, and J. M. Kilbourne major. On October 21st the command left camp for Washington, and, shortly after its arrival there, it started for Fortress Monroe, whence, on December 6, it sailed for Port Royal, S. C. Having received orders to occupy the Sea Islands, Col. Welsh divided his regiment, giving **Lieut. Col. Beaver** a separate command, and he was sent to relieve the gallant 79th New York, at Fort Walker. In January, 1862, he relieved the 55<sup>th</sup> P. V. I. and part of the 7th Connecticut, then stationed at Hilton Head Island. Subsequently the regiment was ordered north to join the Army of the Potomac after the disastrous Peninsular campaign, and after a short sojourn at Newport News it was assigned to guard the military railroad from Acquia Creek to Fredericksburg. **Col. Beaver** was dispatched with the remainder of the command to Brooks Station.

On September 4, **Lieut. Col. Beaver**, at the urgent request of his neighbors at home, and of Gov. Curtin, resigned his commission in the 45<sup>th</sup> to accept the appointment of colonel of the 148<sup>th</sup> P. V. I., known also as the Centre County regiment, and, with his new command, left Harrisburg on September 8. His regiment was posted along the Northern Central railroad during the Antietam campaign, and remained in that position until December 10, when it was transferred to the

Rappahannock, and became part of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 2nd Corps. As soon as the regiment arrived at the front, **Col. Beaver** rode up to Gen. Hancock's headquarters and reported his arrival. "Gen. Hancock," he said, "I have been ordered to report to you, sir, for duty." "What is your regiment, Colonel." "148th P. V. I." was the reply;" and General, while I would not presume so much as to suggest the disposition that is to be made of my regiment, I shall be glad if it could be placed in a brigade of your division, where the men can see a daily exemplification of the good results of the soldiery discipline I have endeavored to teach." The great soldier was, of course, no less surprised than pleased at the enthusiasm displayed by the young colonel, but could only reply: "I regret to say that we have no such brigade. I only wish we had. You will report for duty, sir, to the commander of the 1st Brigade of this division." It is said that the request which the young officer had made led Gen. Hancock to keep a careful watch upon his future course, and it was not long before he observed that in camp and upon parade the regiment which he commanded was a model for all of the others in the brigade. Indeed, so conspicuous was its excellence that long before the army was again prepared for battle, Gen. Joe Hooker had predicted that it would not be long before its colonel would be a major general. Gen. Hancock's estimate of him, written twenty years after the incident just mentioned, may be here quoted: "**Gen. James A. Beaver** joined the first division of the 2nd Army Corps (then commanded by me) with his regiment, the 148th P. V. I., just after the battle of Fredericksburg, December, 1862, and served constantly under my command in the 2nd Corps (save when absent from wounds received in battle) until the fall of 1864. During that period he was engaged in some of the most important campaigns and battles of the Army of the Potomac, and took a conspicuous and distinguished part in many of them. I consider him one of the most intrepid, intelligent, and efficient young officers in our service during the war, and on several occasions mentioned him in my official reports for valuable service and distinguished bravery. He was wounded at Chancellorsville, again while gallantly leading his fine regiment and brigade in an assault upon the enemy's works at Petersburg, Va., June 16, 1864, and at Ream's Station, August 25, 1864. On this latter occasion he had just joined his regiment on the battlefield, and taken command of the brigade to which it belonged, after an absence caused by former wounds, when he was struck by a musket ball which shattered his thigh and disabled him for life by the loss of a leg."

**Col. Beaver** and his regiment were soon moving forward to the battle of Chancellorsville, and hardly had the firing on this memorable battlefield commenced ere he fell, hit hard below the waistband. It seemed to all about him that the wound must eventually prove fatal, but he declined the services of those who sprang to his assistance, saying: "Go to your places; it will be time enough to bury the dead when the battle is over." An hour later he received the welcome intelligence from the army surgeon that a gutta-percha pencil, which had been smashed to atoms, had turned the ball from its course, causing it to plow a great track through the fleshy part of the abdomen only, and thus saved injury to the intestines. He was removed to his home at Bellefonte, but before the wound was entirely healed he took command of Camp Curtin, by order of Gen. Couch, and began organizing the troops which were then flocking by the thousands to Harrisburg in response to President Lincoln's call for 120,000 men for the purpose of defending the State of Pennsylvania against Lee's invasion. The satisfactory manner in which he accomplished this task called forth the following compliment from Maj.Gen. Couch, which was issued in special order No. 35, July 15, 1863: "The Major-General commanding tenders thanks to **Col. Beaver** for the important service rendered him in the organization of the troops which were hurried to the capital and placed under his command at Camp Curtin. Notwithstanding he was absent on leave in this department, on account of wounds received in battle, the zeal and

energy he manifested in the cause is worthy of emulation." Many years after this. Gen. Couch, speaking of **Col. Beaver's** devotion to duty at the time, said: "He was a soldier who could be trusted morning, noon and night." **Col. Beaver** now made request to be allowed to rejoin his regiment, and, his request having been granted, he crossed the Potomac with it and participated in Gen. Meade's retrograde movement from Culpeper Court House and in the Mine Run campaign during the autumn of 1863. Part of the winter and following spring were spent near Stevensburg, Va. On May 13, he was assigned to the command of the 3d Brigade, 1st Division, 2d Corps. He participated in all the battles of the Wilderness campaign, and received the surrender of Gen. Stuart at Spottsylvania. In the assault of Cold Harbor his regiment especially distinguished itself for its daring and successful actions, and at Petersburg, on June 16, he commanded a brigade, but was severely wounded in the first assault upon the works. He was sent home, but returned to the army in time to follow his division, and reached it just as it was receiving the terrible assault of the enemy at Ream's Station on August 25. By direction of Gen. Hancock he immediately assumed command of the brigade, and had scarcely more than relieved the officer in command when he received a wound in the right thigh, in consequence of which it was found necessary to amputate the leg at the hip. The loss of his leg, of course, completely incapacitated him for active service, and at his own request he was honorably mustered out of service on December 22, 1864, on account of wounds received in battle, having previously declined a detail for court-martial duty at Washington. Previous to this, however, he had been brevetted brigadier-general "for highly meritorious and distinguished conduct throughout the campaign, particularly for valuable services at Cold Harbor while commanding a brigade."

**General Beaver** resumed the practice of his profession with his partner, **Hon. H. N. McAllister**, who had conducted the business during his absence, and who had no superior at the bar in central Pennsylvania. With both members of the firm actively and devotedly engaged in the practice of the profession, the business not only increased but became very exacting in its demands. He did not on this account, however, neglect the duties which devolve upon the individual citizen. Soon after his return he was induced, for the sake of securing harmony within the Republican ranks, to accept the nomination for representative in the State Legislature, Centre County at that time gave an average Democratic majority of about 1,000. There was no expectation that this majority could be overcome, and no special effort was made in the canvass. He was defeated by his Democratic competitor by a majority of less than 150. In the following year he was informally tendered the nomination for Congress in a district which was then largely Republican, the conferees of three of the counties (the district being composed of five) offering to support him for the nomination. He declined to allow the use of his name, however, on the ground that the representative of the district who was then serving in Congress had a right to another term. He also refused to allow his name to be used in opposition to that of Gov. Geary for a second term in 1869, although offered the support of a powerful faction in Pennsylvania politics.

In 1878 his name was brought forward by the county convention of Centre County as their choice for the nomination for governor. He did not regard this as a call for his services, and therefore paid no special attention to it, and no effort was made to secure support in other sections of the State. His name was favorably mentioned in the Republican convention of that year, and although he advised his friends to vote for Gen. Hoyt, whose nomination had been determined upon, he received a number of votes. This brought his name prominently before the people of the State, and in the campaign which followed he rendered efficient service, particularly in the northwestern part of the State, where great dissatisfaction existed. In 1880 he

was elected as a district delegate to the Republican National Convention which convened at Chicago in that year, and was unanimously elected the chairman of the Pennsylvania delegation. Notwithstanding the division of the delegation into hostile factions, he held himself so fairly in regard to both of them that the vote of the Pennsylvania delegation was never questioned during the entire period of that exciting convention; and after the nomination of Gen. Garfield he was tendered by his co-delegates the unanimous vote of the delegation for the Vice-Presidency. Several other delegations, North and South, made a like tender, and it was believed at the time that he would have been nominated upon the ticket with Gen. Garfield if he had not peremptorily declined to allow his name to be used, giving for a reason therefore that it was neither good politics to nominate a candidate for Vice-President from Pennsylvania, nor had he any desire to occupy a place in which there was little opportunity for activity. At his suggestion the Pennsylvania delegation decided to support any candidate who might be presented by the majority of the delegation from New York. Gen. Arthur was afterward nominated, and the result is well known.

In January, 1881, a successor to Hon. William A. Wallace was to be elected by the Legislature to represent Pennsylvania in the United States Senate. Hon. Henry W. Oliver was the choice of the Republican caucus. A large number of Republicans, however, refused to support the caucus nominee, and a dead-lock ensued which lasted for several weeks. Without any consultation with him, and without his knowledge or consent, the name of **Gen. Beaver** was presented by a representative of those who opposed the caucus nominee as a compromise candidate. He was named by what was known as the regular caucus, but owing to the manner in which this was done the Independents declined to support him. He went to Harrisburg, assisted to provide a tribunal which should name a candidate to be supported by both elements of the party, and then returned home. The result was the nomination of the Hon. John I. Mitchell, who was elected. By these means, and through his active participation in the Presidential campaign of 1880, **Gen. Beaver** was brought prominently before the people of Pennsylvania, and in the preliminary campaign which preceded the nomination for governor in 1882, his name was the only one prominently mentioned for that nomination. No opposition to his nomination was known to exist, and he was the unanimous choice of the convention when it assembled. Dissensions arose afterward, however, growing out of alleged abuses of internal management in the Republican Party, which resulted in the calling of an independent convention, the nomination of another Republican ticket, and the consequent and inevitable defeat of both. The entire Democratic State ticket was elected.

In 1886 **Gen. Beaver** was again elected the unanimous choice of his party for the chief magistracy of the State, and after an exciting canvass, in which the Prohibition Party took an unusually active part, he was elected by a plurality of over 40,000. He was inaugurated January 18, 1887, and it may be truly said that no man ever assumed office with a greater or more sacred sense of the obligation which he then took upon himself. He entered upon his duties with a fearless determination to faithfully execute the laws for the whole people, and his administration certainly proved that no pressure or crisis ever made him swerve from his resolve. His administration was characterized by a familiarity with the conditions of society, and a knowledge of the wants of the people, which were acquired by an active participation in their every-day life, through the varied means offered him for such a purpose. Provision for industrial education, in connection with the common-school system of the State, was strongly urged in his inaugural address, and throughout his administration this subject received his careful consideration, and

was insisted upon on every proper occasion. During his term of office a commission to consider the whole question of industrial education was, at his suggestion, appointed, and their report on the subject forms one of the most important and valuable contributions to the practical solution of this question which has yet appeared. In his first message to the Legislature he called special attention to the necessity for improvement in the roads of the State, and, as essential thereto, a reform in the road laws. The subject was immediately taken up by the governors of many other States, and is now one of the foremost questions demanding a practical and successful solution.

On May 31, 1889, there occurred in the Conemaugh Valley, on the western slope of the Alleghanies, a catastrophe which has probably no parallel, by which some 3,000 lives were lost by reason of extraordinary heavy rains, and the giving away of an immense reservoir in the mountains sustained by a dam originally built for supplying the canal system of the State with water, and which had more lately been maintained for fishing purposes by an outing club. In response to the appeals made for the bereaved and destitute people of this region some three millions of dollars poured into the hands of the Executive, which were distributed through a relief commission appointed by him. He also assumed the responsibility of borrowing \$400,000 which provided, through the agency of the Board of Health, for the removal of the debris in the valley, which, owing to the particular circumstances of the case, seriously endangered the health of the remaining inhabitants. This work required months of unusual labor and most careful forethought in plan and execution. Subsequent events proved that the emergency was wisely and energetically met and mastered. **Gov. Beaver** was deeply interested, during his official term, in the project to connect the waters of Lake Erie and the Ohio River by a ship-canal. He cooperated very zealously with a commission which was appointed by him to inquire as to the expediency of such a highway, and in his last message to the legislature gave expression to views which, in the light of subsequent developments in regard to the Canadian canal system, show his grasp of the subject. He said in relation to the subject: "If the waters of Lake Erie and the Ohio were connected by a canal such as proposed and shown to be entirely feasible, and if the present canal from Albany to Buffalo were enlarged so as to admit vessels of the same size, these links would secure a chain of inter-waterway communication between New York and New Orleans which would be invaluable for commercial purposes, and in time of war would furnish an entirely safe means of communication between these important termini and all other interior points. It would, in addition, give us control for defensive purposes of our lake front, which we do not now have, and which it is doubtful whether we can secure in any other way under present treaty stipulations."

His was a practical business administration without any effort at show, but with an earnest attempt to secure results calculated to advance the welfare of the people. Rev. Dr. Keady, of Alabama, who lost an arm in the Confederate service, and who is a warm personal friend of **Gen. Beaver**, at a meeting of their college class in 1891, thus summed up his administration, "in the words of one who watched his course closely: 'His administration was high-toned, conscientious, diligent, and clean, without even the shadow of a suggestion of scandal or of subjection to improper influences. He was considerate of all legitimate interests, scrupulous in his selections for appointment to office, and unflinching in his exercise of the veto power whenever his judgment so directed, even in the case of measures supported by his best personal friends. His career has indeed furnished a true and honorable type of the American citizen and public official.'"

In the attempt to reorganize the militia of the State of Pennsylvania after the war, **Gen. Beaver** was appointed a major-general by Gov. Geary, and took a prominent part in securing by legislation and practical effort such reorganization. It required great labor and persistence. He with a few others, however, including Gen. Hartranft, who was afterward elected governor, and other general officers, gave much time and effort, and finally succeeded in organizing the National Guard of Pennsylvania. **Gen. Beaver** was continually in service, either as brigadier-general or major-general, until the election of 1886, when he became ex-officio commander-in-chief, and appeared at the head of the Guard at the Constitutional Centennial Celebration in 1887, in Philadelphia, and at the celebration of the Centennial of Washington's Inauguration in 1889 in New York. He was thus, either as brigade or division commander or as the commander-in-chief, connected with the National Guard of Pennsylvania for over twenty years, and is now on the honorably retired list, with the rank of major-general. Upon his return to private life he again resumed the practice of law with his former law partners, J. W. Gephart and Jno. M. Dale. Mr. Gephart retiring from the firm in 1893, the practice was continued for a time by Beaver & Dale, until the Governor retired from active practice. He was for several years president of the Blubaker Coal Co., which is the owner of a large and valuable body of bituminous coal lands in Cambria County, Penn., and which has had a phenomenal growth and development. He is specially proud of his State and her history, and is an earnest and efficient advocate of any and all improvements tending to advance her interests and the welfare of her people. He has for many years taken great interest in the Pennsylvania State College, has been a member of its board of trustees for nearly twenty-five years, and is chairman of the executive committee which has practical direction of its affairs. He has been largely instrumental in aiding in the wonderful development of this institution, which ranks second to none in laying broad and deep foundations upon which a great industrial university is to be built. He has been a member of the board of trustees of Washington and Jefferson College—his alma mater—and of Lincoln University, in Chester County, Penn., an institution for the education of colored young men. He has also been president of the Alumni Association of Washington and Jefferson College for a number of years. In college he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, and he is also a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. In 1889 Dickinson College, of Carlisle, Penn., and Hanover College, of Indiana, both conferred upon him the honorary literary degree of LL. D.

The General possesses a large and valuable library, and makes a specialty of collecting books and data of all kinds relating to the war. He was selected to act as grand marshal of the ceremonies at Washington in connection with the inauguration of Gen. Benjamin Harrison as President of the United States. Like most other great men who passed through the war, he is strongly in favor of burying all sectional animosity connected with it, and in his address of welcome at Gettysburg, in 1888, by the Army of the Potomac, to the Confederate soldiers, said, among other patriotic and appropriate remarks:

*"I have often busied myself in thought and have sometimes spoken on some phases of the question, "Do the results of the war pay for its cost?" It is difficult for us to look at your side of that question. It was a great price that we paid on both sides for that decision. Think of the blood; think of the tears; think of the treasure; think of the property; look at the graves in yonder cemetery; think of the scene of the conflict. Oh, what a cost! and yet, my countrymen, think of the result. Think of the new birth of freedom; think of the new hopes and the new aspirations for the future; think of the career which opens up before us as we face the future; think of the generations to come; think of the heritage we are preparing for them; think of the great*



*settlement of great questions settled, and only to be settled, by the sword; think of the saving of blood and of tears, and of treasure, because we took up the sword, and did not leave it for other generations who were to come after us, when feeling would be intensified, when greater numbers would be involved, and when the conflict would have been more prolonged and more deadly. The finite mind loses itself in contemplation of these questions. We can bow to the decision; and I think we are learning to say more and more, as the days go by that, great as was the cost, infinite as was the price, the result pays—pays now and will pay much more in the future. I cannot particularize as to the questions which we face—the great questions of public policy which we must settle in this generation. I see a grand future for my country. Do I say "my country?" Your country—our country. North and South. I see a great development of her material resources; I see a grand upbuilding of her intellectual power; I see a broad extension of her influence among the nations of the earth; I see her glorious flag floating at the topmast in every harbor of the world; I see the principles upon which she is founded, extending and deepening and widening for the benefit of mankind; I see the glorious Christianity which underlies and characterizes her civilization, carried by human lips of her commissioning throughout the world, for the healing of nations. And, as this vision arises, the question is not "What of the past?" but "What of the future?" How shall we meet its responsibilities? How shall we answer its demands? How shall we rise to the heights of its great possibilities? O, my countrymen of the Gray and of the Blue, these are the questions about which we should be concerned. And because the consideration of these questions is pressing and imminent, we who wore the Blue have invited you men who wore the Gray, to join us here on this historic field. We welcome you because we need you; we welcome you because you need us; we welcome you because we together must enter in and possess this future, and transmit this heritage to the oncoming generations. Are we ready? If so, "Let the dead past bury its dead."*

In July, 1895, **Gov. Beaver** was appointed Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, which had been authorized by an Act of the Legislature then lately passed. He was subsequently nominated by the State Republican Convention for the full term of ten years from January, 1896, and was elected at the general election in November which followed. **Judge Beaver** at his home is looked upon as a most exemplary citizen and no one takes a deeper interest in the affairs of his home town. Some five years ago he was elected by a handsome majority at the borough election as one of the councilmen of the borough, and was one of the most active workers in that body. He is a bright example for any young man. He is the embodiment of Christian courage, of all that goes to make a true and pure life. His time, his talents, his money, has been sacrificed for the good of his country, his State and his home community. Still in the strength of a noble manhood, with a will to work, and intelligence to direct, he will continue to fill the same position of usefulness while he lives. When the true worth of this illustrious citizen is fully appreciated, no citizen in the history of this Commonwealth will occupy a more exalted position in the annals of the State than **Ex-Governor and General and Judge James A. Beaver**.

On December 26, 1865, **Judge Beaver** was united in marriage to **Miss Mary Allison McAllister**, daughter of the late **Hon. H. N. McAllister**, of Bellefonte. She is a lady of fine culture and education, and an air of refinement and taste surrounds her home. An enthusiastic American, she is proud of her soldier husband and his record, and she has the supreme satisfaction of knowing that she has proved herself a worthy helpmeet to him. They have two sons living, **Gilbert Addams** and **Thomas**, both bright and talented young men, who give promise of useful and helpful lives. A third son, **Hugh McAllister**, died August 2, 1897. He

was a very remarkable young man, and although only in his twenty-fifth year had accomplished more in influencing others toward right living than often falls to the lot of much older men. His untimely death was universally mourned in his home community, where he was greatly esteemed and beloved.

[www.theperryhistorians.org](http://www.theperryhistorians.org)