

History of Columbia and Montour Counties, Pennsylvania, Containing A History of Each County; Their Townships, Towns, Villages, Schools, Churches, Industries, Etc.; Portraits of Representative Men; Biographies; History of Pennsylvania, Statistical and Miscellaneous Matter, Etc. Edited By J. H. Battle. Illustrated. Chicago: A. Warner & Co. 1887.

Jesse Beaver, retired merchant, Danville, was born in Lebanon County, Penn., March 8, 1811, a son of **Peter** (a tanner and Methodist minister) and **Elizabeth (Gilbert) Beaver**, whose ancestors were among the early settlers of Pennsylvania. (For further ancestral history see sketch of **Thomas Beaver**.) They were the parents of twelve children, ten of whom attained adult age. **Jesse**, who is the fifth child, received his education in a log schoolhouse in Perry County, Penn. Early in life he learned the printers' trade, but never worked at it after completing his apprenticeship. He clerked two years in a store in Union County, where his father had moved in 1828, and then returned to Perry County, and engaged in keeping a general store until 1857. He then sold out and bought a store in Union County, where he continued the business until 1863. In that year he came to Danville and engaged for some years in the coal trade, after which he retired. In 1833 he married **Mary Ann**, daughter of **Dr. Christian Swartz**, a native of Pennsylvania and of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent. Their union was blessed with five sons and five daughters, all of whom are living and married, except one. **Mr. and Mrs. Beaver** are members of the Methodist Church, of which he has been steward, trustee and class-leader. He has been a constant reader, and devotes much time to the study of the Scriptures, ancient and modern history, etc. In politics he was a Democrat until 1856, when he affiliated with the Republican Party, to which he still adheres. He held several offices while a resident of Perry and Union Counties, such as school director and member of the town council, and served one term as auditor of Perry County. He was postmaster at Millerstown, and was appointed collector of toll for the Pennsylvania Canal Company, but on finding that he was usurping another man's place he refused to accept the position. **Mr. Beaver** then purchased a store, which he conducted until coming to Danville in 1863. He was elected associate judge of Perry County in 1851 and served five years; also served one term as representative. In 1862 he was appointed United States revenue collector of Union County, serving until he came to Danville, when he resigned and embarked in the coal and lumber business.

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