

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, Comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry, Pennsylvania, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers 1897

Samuel H. Beck, New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa., a native of Perry County, was born January 24, 1848; he is a son of **Christian** and **Eliza (Shull) Beck**. His grandparents on the paternal side were of German descent; the grandfather died at the age of eighty-two. **Mr. Beck's** paternal grandparents were English by birth, and came to this country in early life; **Mr. Shull** was a blacksmith. Their children were: **Thomas**, deceased; **Abraham**, deceased; **Elijah**, deceased; **Margaret**, widow of **C. Hoover**; and **Chauncey M.**; the last two reside at Lewistown, Mifflin County, Pa. **Mr. Beck's** father, **Christian Beck**, was born in Lebanon County, Pa. He early learned the business of tailoring, and, coming to Perry County while a young man, carried on his business there for many years. In whatever place he resided, he proved a worthy and useful citizen, and soon obtained the good will and confidence of the citizens. He was for many years justice of the peace, both in Mifflin and in Perry Counties. He removed to Reading in 1868, and continued in business there for the remainder of his life. **Mr. Beck** married **Eliza**, daughter of **Abraham** and **Elizabeth Shull**. Their children are: **Margaret**, who died in 1850; **Clara**, died July 4, 1862, aged eleven years; **Chauncey**, died in 1855, aged two years; **Elizabeth (Mrs. E. L. Gillette)**; **Samuel H.**; and **William**, residing in New York. **Christian Beck** died May 22, 1875, aged fifty-six years and six months; his wife survived him until March 20, 1884, when she died at the age of sixty five. Both were consistent members of the Presbyterian Church.

Samuel H. Beck was educated partly in Ohio, where the family resided for a very short time during his early youth, and partly in the schools of Pennsylvania. He finished his course of studies at the age of fifteen, in Perry County. He was then clerk in a general store at McVeytown, Mifflin County, Pa., for about four months. Then came the days of the Rebellion, when the patriotic American boy could scarcely restrain his eagerness to be at the front, fighting for the Union, "rallying round the flag." **Samuel H. Beck** was but sixteen when he enlisted, in July, 1864, and was enrolled in Company G, One Hundred and Ninety-fourth Pennsylvania Volunteers. He served one hundred days, and was honorably discharged, November 9, 1864. His first employment after his duty to his country had been discharged was in the store of Joseph Abram, of New Bloomfield, an engagement which lasted two years. The next was with the well-known and genial Frank Mortimer, and lasted six years. He then gave two years to perfecting himself in tailoring, which he had partially learned with his father before the war, and at the end of those two years, returned to Mr. Mortimer, with whom he now remained five years. From 1879 to 1880, Mr. Beck was traveling salesman for the wholesale house of J. H. Long & Co., of Philadelphia. He then bought out the coach-making establishment of Stouffer & Crist, in New Bloomfield, and carried on that business for five years. During that time he was appointed deputy sheriff of Perry County, in which capacity he served five years. In the fall of 1884, Mr. Beck sold out his coach shop, and again became a traveling salesman, representing the Maysville Shoe Co.; the engagement was broken off by the failure of the company in 1889. Mr. Beck then lived retired for a short time. In 1880, he was appointed to fill out an unexpired term as justice of the peace at New Bloomfield, and in 1882, he was elected to that office for a term of five years. Before the term had expired, he went to Bedford County, Pa., to assume the charge of the office of B. Green & Co., as head clerk; this was in December, 1886, and he remained until September, 1887. In the mean time, his term as justice of the peace at New Bloomfield having expired, the voters of that borough, fully assured of his return, re-elected him without his knowledge, so that on coming home, he had but to step into the old familiar routine. He served as magistrate in all

about twelve years. He also held the office of deputy register and recorder for five years. From 1889 to 1893, Mr. Beck served the Perry County Railroad Company as general agent; he was then promoted to superintendent of the road, which position he still holds. All connected with the road, officials and employees of every degree, hold Mr. Beck in high esteem; his faithful and efficient services are rewarded with full confidence. He has for many years been an active member of the I. O. O. F., the K. of P., and of Sergeant John Jones Post, No. 448, G. A. R. **Samuel H. Beck** was first married in May, 1868, to **Margaret**, daughter of **Samuel** and **Elizabeth (Shuler) Roath**; their children were two daughters, **Annie** and **Mary**. **Mrs. Margaret Beck** died January 29, 1875, aged twenty-six. On June 6, 1876, **Mr. Beck** was married to **Rebecca Roath**, sister of his first wife. Their children are: **Clara**, died in October, 1893, aged six years; **Blanche**; **Alice**; **Marian**; **Howard**; **Catherine**; and Sarah. **Mr. Beck's** family are members of the Methodist Church.

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