

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

Robert Beerly. In past pages the history of a country was the record of wars and conquests; today it is the record of commercial activity, and those whose names are foremost in its annals are the leaders in business circles. Our subject is unquestionably one of the strongest and most influential business men of Centre County—the proprietor of a large wagon factory at Central City—and the place which he occupies in business circles is in the front rank.

Mr. Beerly was born December 21, 1837, in Clinton County, Penn., and traces his ancestry to **Nicholas Beerly**, a German astrologer. The latter's son, **Nicholas**, was born in Pennsylvania, and wedded **Lucy A. Buchtel**, also a native of this State. Both died at Rebersburg. Their son **Peter**, the father of our subject, was born in Centre County. He married **Sarah Karstetter**, a native of Clinton County, and a daughter of **Rudolph Karstetter**, who died in that county. To this worthy couple were born children as follows: **Robert**, subject of this sketch; **Rebecca**, widow of **David Watson**, of Boggs Township; **Masulam**, who died in the army in 1863; **Nathaniel**, a merchant and justice of the peace of Central City; **Tartonlius**, deceased; **Agnes**, wife of **Byron Taylor**, of Boggs Township; **Lemuel**, of Boggs Township; and **Newton**, who died in childhood. The death of both parents occurred in Boggs Township, the father dying in 1868, at the age of fifty- four years; the mother in 1889, at the age of seventy-three years. He was a wagon manufacturer by trade, working at the same in Clinton County until 1847, when he located in Centre County, and in 1860 became a resident of Boggs Township, where he carried on wagon making and repairing until his death. His political support was given the Republican Party.

As a life work **Mr. Beerly** chose the occupation of wagon-making, which trade he learned under his father's able directions, and in the district schools he obtained his literary education, which was somewhat meager, he being the oldest son, and obliged to assist in the support of the family. He continued with his father until his marriage, when he removed to Milesburg, where, for five years, he worked for Jonathan Bullock, and then returned to Boggs Township, and here, for twenty-one years, carried on operations at his father's old plant. In 1890, however, he erected his present steam factory, which he has since successfully operated with the assistance of his two sons, **Albert** and **Ellis**, and enjoys a large and lucrative patronage. He has the most complete wagon factory in the county, and for the past nineteen years has also engaged in the manufacture of cider. Tireless energy, keen perception, honesty of purpose, genius for devising and executing the right thing at the right time, joined to everyday common sense, guided by resistless will power, are the chief characteristics of the man, and have been the important factors in his success.

In 1861, **Mr. Beerly** was united in marriage with **Miss Hannah J. Worts**, and to them were born three sons and two daughters, as follows: **Roland**, who died in childhood; **Laura**, who died at the age of thirty years; **Albert**, associated with his father in business; **Cora**, who died when young; and **Ellis**, also with his father. **Mrs. Beerly** was born in Centre County, July 20, 1835, and is one of the thirteen children of **Jacob** and **Annie (Hanser) Worts**, also natives of Centre County. In order of birth the children are as follows: **Barbara** married **J. Moore**, and both are now deceased; **John** is also deceased; **Eliza** is the wife of **J. McGonigle**; **Jacob** is deceased

Samuel lives in Houserville, Centre County; **Mattie; George; Joe; Philip**, also of Houserville; **Catherine** is deceased; **Mary** is the wife of **William Gross**, of Centre county; **Abraham** is a farmer of Perry County, Penn.; and **Hannah J.** is the wife of our subject. The father was a prominent farmer of Centre County, and a stalwart Republican in politics.

Since 1864, **Mr. Beerly** has lived at his present home, and has been elected to several township offices, but has declined to accept the same, as political distinction has no attraction for him. Until the past nine years he was a Republican, but he now affiliates with the Prohibition Party. His religious views are those of the Presbyterian Church, but at present he is connected with no church organization. A man of fine musical talent, he has won several prizes at musical contests, and is a prominent member of a band and an excellent orchestra. He is one of the representative citizens of the community, held in the highest regard by all who know him.

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