



Peter G. Beichler, New Germantown, Perry County, Pa., son of **Adam** and **Elizabeth (Greenawalt) Beichler**, was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Prussia, April 26, 1842.

Adam Beichler, weaver and farmer, was a native of Hesse Darmstadt, Prussia, and served for six years in the German army. He married **Elizabeth Greenawalt**, also a native of Hesse Darmstadt. Their children are: **Peter G.**; **William**, an employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Altoona, Pa., who served as a substitute for his uncle for one year during the Civil war; and **Margaret (Mrs. John Crouse)**, of Altoona, Pa. In 1852, he and his son, **Peter**, emigrated to America. Crossing to London, England, they took passage for the United States in a sailing vessel, the voyage occupying fifty-two days. **Mr. Beichler** made his way to West Hempfield Township, Lancaster County, Pa., where he had relatives, with whom he remained for one year, finding employment in the ore mines. In 1853, he sent for his wife and remaining children, and the re-united family made a home for themselves in their adopted land. He continued to work in the mines until

1861, when he removed to Perry County, and bought a farm in Toboyne Township, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died in 1871, aged fifty-five; his wife died in 1801. **Peter G. Beichler** attended the schools of Hesse Darmstadt, Prussia, until he was ten years old, when he came with his father to Lancaster County, Pa., and there attended school for a short time. His educational advantages were very limited, as he was obliged to aid in the support of the family. For a short time he drove a cart in the mines in which his father was employed, but he was too small and was forced to give up the place. He then hired out among the neighboring farmers, receiving his board and \$1.50 per month, all of which was used for the support of the family. He has earned his own living from boyhood, most of the time among strangers. When the Civil war broke out, and the Government called for volunteers for three months, he was eager to enlist, but his parents would not consent. When the two-years men were called, he again asked and was again refused. He learned blacksmithing in Lancaster County, and was working at his trade in Toboyne Township, Perry County, when the nine-month men were called. He now determined to go, and enlisted at New Bloomfield, Perry County, in August, 1862, under Captain Shively. The regiment hastened to Washington, D. C, thence to Fairfax, and was hurried forward to Antietam. During the battle they were detailed to guard the baggage trains, and afterwards encamped at Sharpsburg, Md. Later they crossed the Potomac, and marched up the Shenandoah

Valley to White Plains, where **Mr. Beichler** was taken sick and sent to the hospital. After some time spent in different hospitals, he was discharged in February, 1863. He returned to his home, and being unable to work at his trade, his uncle in Lancaster County wrote, inviting him to come to the mines and learn to manage the stationary engine. He was living three miles from Columbia, when the Confederate troops appeared on the other side of the river. This so fired his enthusiasm that he re-enlisted at Lancaster, in 1864, in Company F, Seventy-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, under Captain Wisner; and joining his regiment at Atlanta, Ga., took part in several battles. He was wounded at Bentonville while rendering gallant service. They were lying on their faces before the enemy's works, when the order was given to retreat twenty paces, no more, this was done, and shortly after they were again ordered to retreat. As **Mr. Beichler** was rising he tripped and fell; just as he rose again a ball struck his right hand tearing away two fingers; hurrying to overtake his company, he was struck in the right thigh. Still pressing on, in a few moments he was again hit in the left leg above the knee. It almost seemed as if the enemy were making him a target, for as he limped wearily along, weakened by loss of blood, a fourth bullet pierced his left thigh coming out on the inside above the knee. Seeing the Union line again moving to attack, and fearing that he would be killed by his friends, he rallied his failing strength for a last desperate effort, and had almost reached his goal, when another ball entered his shoulder passing out through his left arm; he tottered forward and fell exhausted, but within the Union lines. His comrades tenderly lifted him to a litter hastily constructed from some saplings and his gum blanket, and bore him to the wood, where he was placed in an ambulance and taken to the hospital. Here he remained from that day, March 19, until July 6, when he was discharged, after refusing to accept promotion. He returned to his parents in Toboyne Township; his wounds were still unhealed, and for many days he was unable to walk without a cane. As soon as possible, he returned to his former position as engineer at the ore mines in Lancaster County, Pa., where he remained for six years. His health failing, he turned his attention to agriculture, and bought his father's farm, which he cultivated for some years, and afterwards farmed in different parts of the township. In 1880, he purchased his present home, a farm of 40 acres, which he has greatly improved. He has erected all the buildings on the property. He is a Republican, and a member of the Sergeant John Jones Post, G. A. R., at New Bloomfield, Pa.

Peter G. Beichler was first married in 1867, to **Sarah Gutshall**, of Lancaster County, Pa. Their children are: **William**, of Philadelphia, Pa.; **Norman**, removed to the west; **Annie C.**; **Grace M.**; and **Charles**. The last three died in youth, and **Mrs. Beichler** died in 1875. In 1877, **Mr. Beichler** married secondly, **Frances J. Bower**, of Blain, Pa. their children are: **Ira Irving**; **Grace M.**; **Luella**; and **Benjamin H.** **Mr. Beichler** is a member of the Lutheran Church, in which he is a deacon.

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