

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

**Abraham A. Benner**, Van Dyke, Juniata County, Pa., was born August 26, 1856, in Walker Township, Juniata County, he is a son of **Thomas** and **Mary (Auker) Benner**.

**Christian Benner**, his grandfather, was born in Bucks County, and was of German descent; he farmed in that county. When a young man he remained for eight years in Philadelphia, teaming and draying. Removing to Snyder County, he purchased a farm, where he resided until, in his old age, he gave up farming, and went to live with his son in Juniata County; there he died, in 1882. He was a Whig, and subsequently became a Republican. He was a member of the Mennonite Church, and took an active part in all church matters. He had married in Bucks County before his removal to Philadelphia, and was the father of eleven children, of whom **Thomas** was one. **Thomas Benner**, born in Philadelphia in June, 1831, received a good education in the schools of that city and of Snyder County, and was fluent in both the English and German languages. His early life was spent on his father's farm. From the time he was fourteen until he was twenty five years of age he hired out with various farmers in Juniata County. He then rented a farm in Walker Township, Juniata County, which he cultivated for thirteen consecutive years. After spending two years in Delaware and Fayette Townships, he purchased the farm on which **Abraham A. Benner** now resides, which he cultivated up to the time of his death, a period of nineteen years, giving special attention to stock breeding.

**Mr. Benner** was married in Juniata County to **Miss Mary Auker**, born in Walker Township, daughter of **Christian Auker**, of the same township. They had six children, of whom **Abraham A.** was the eldest. The others were as follows: **Frances (Mrs. Lucian Auker)**, of Fayette Township; **Catharine (Mrs. George Kirkner)**, of Walker Township; **Anne (Mrs. Jerome Auker)**, of Fayette Township, Juniata County; **Samuel**, a farmer and school teacher of the same township; and **Mary (Mrs. Charles Degan)**, also of Fayette Township. **Mr. Benner** was a Whig, and afterwards a life-long Republican. He was a prominent and consistent member of the Mennonite Church of Walker Township. His death occurred in 1886. His loving wife had departed ten years before him, in 1876.

**Abraham A. Benner** received a fair common school education in the Centre School of Walker Township. He began life on his father's farm, where he remained until he was twenty-one, and then removed to Fayette Township, Juniata County, where he farmed for five years. At the expiration of this time he returned to the homestead in Walker Township, where he has remained ever since. Since 1886 he has cultivated the farm, also giving attention to rearing stock, in which he deals to some extent. He is also engaged in the manufacture of lime on the farm, which he disposes of principally in his own township. Besides other improvements, he has erected a barn which is an ornament to the property. **Mr. Benner** was married in 1880 in Harrisburg, Pa., to **Louisa Auker**, born in Pfoutz Valley, Perry County, daughter of **John Auker**, a farmer of this valley. Their children are: **Annie; Edna; Wilson; Elizabeth; and John.**

**Mr. Benner**, like all his ancestors for generations, is an upright, industrious man, who by integrity and by kindness to all around him has won the highest esteem of the community of which he is so useful a member. He is a Republican. Like his ancestors, he is a devout member of the Mennonite Church.