

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

Lewis Besom, farmer, Newport, Perry County, Pa., was born near Seven Stars, Greenwood Township, Juniata County, Pa., December 30, 1837, and is a son of **Christian** and **Jane (Heiser) Besom**. His grandfather, **Christian Besom** (1), was born near Richfield, Snyder County, Pa., and resided in Greenwood Township. He was a cooper, and also owned and occupied a farm in Greenwood Township. He became a prosperous man, and was widely known and honored. His death occurred on his farm, when he was about sixty-two years of age. He married **Susanna Long**, a native of Greenwood Township, Perry County, Pa. Their children are: **Christian** (2); **Jesse**, born May 1, 1812, died unmarried; **Mary (Mrs. John Jopson)**, born March 10, 1881, settled in Millerstown, but died in Marysville, Pa., her husband now resides in Harrisburg, Pa.; **Sarah (Mrs. Samuel Chathams)**, born August 6, 1820, resided at Millerstown, afterwards removed to the Pennsylvania oil regions, where she and her husband died; **Henry**, born October 11, 1822, married **Amelia Jones**, and resides in Juniata County, Pa.; **John**, born April 4, 1825, married **Catherine Stahl** and settled in Altoona, Pa., where he was accidentally killed.

Christian Besom (2), father of **Lewis Besom**, was born in Juniata County, Pa., March 15, 1810, and died at Newport, Pa., February 3, 1894. He married **Jane Heiser**, who was born in Juniata County, Pa., February 9, 1810, and died near Newport, Pa., July 30, 1892. After his marriage, **Mr. Besom** removed to Greenwood Township, where he worked in the country as a journeyman cooper. He had a limited education, but was a man of much natural ability. He always adhered to the Democratic Party. His children are: **Sarah (Mrs. Henry Kines)**, born November 13, 1835, resides in Juniata Township, Perry County, Pa.; **Lewis; John**, born February 6, 1840, married **Elizabeth Oren**, resides in Oliver Township, Perry County, Pa., served in the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry during the late war; **Susanna (Mrs. William Cook)**, born October 17, 1841, resides at Wilmington, Del., where **Mr. Cook** died; **Samuel**, born June 16, 1844, served with the one hundred days men in the late war, married **Mary Van Newkirk**, and resides at Newport, Pa.; **William**, born October 6, 1846, married **Margaret Troup**, and resides at Newport, Pa.; **Isaac**, born April 2, 1852, married **Mary Fortney**, resides at Duncannon, Pa.; **Jacob**, born February 16, 1855, married **Alice Gelnet**, and removed to DeWitt County, Ill., where they now reside. **Lewis Besom** was educated in the public schools of Millerstown and surrounding townships.

At the early age of fifteen years he became a mule driver on the canal between Pittsburg and Columbia. In 1869, he was able to buy a boat of his own, with money saved from his wages, and he named his boat "William Bosserman." His next boat he called the "John W. Geary," which he ran for two years. Next he owned the "Fikes and Bro.," for four years, and next the "Kough and Bro." In 1882, he sold his boat and bought his present farm of 100 acres with all requisite buildings. In 1862, **Mr. Besom** first enlisted at Harrisburg, Pa., in Company I, One Hundred and Thirty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers, for a term of nine months. He proceeded with the regiment to Arlington Heights, Va.; after being in camp a short time they advanced to Antietam, but did not take part in that battle; they were in the engagement at Fredericksburg, Va., and afterwards in the battle of Chancellorsville, where **Mr. Besom** saw Gen. Joe Hooker knocked down by a rail which had been struck by a cannon ball. After this battle he was discharged and

came home, having in his nine months of service encountered many perils and endured great exposure from long and tedious marches. For a time, **Mr. Besom** was employed again on the canal, but in the spring of 1864, he enlisted at Harrisburg, Pa., in Company G, Two Hundred and Eighth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, as first sergeant, for one year, or during the war. The regiment was sent to Bermuda Hundred, on the James River; thence to Point of Rocks, near Dutch Gap Canal, where after a short time in camp they went to the front of Petersburg and took part in that battle, after which they followed General Lee to Five Forks and engaged with his army at that point, then were brought to City Point, and thence to Alexandria, Va., where they were discharged, in June, 1865. After his return from the army **Mr. Besom** returned to boating. He is a member of Lieut. A. Lobaugh Post, No. 297, G. A. R., Newport, Pa.

On December 21, 1865, **Lewis Besom** was married to **Miss Mary Jane Troup**, born in Oliver Township, Perry County, Pa., March 9, 1845, daughter of **Henry** and **Elizabeth (Reed) Troup**. Their children are: **Henry Milton**, born September 1, 1866, fireman on the Pennsylvania Railroad; **Charles Lewis**, born July 6, 1868, died February 11, 1872; **Lizzie Jane (Mrs. Hiram Wright)**, of Homestead, Pa., born April 10, 1872, married July 7, 1892; **Philip**, twin to **Lizzie**, died in infancy; and **Thomas Garfield**, born December 4, 1880, at home attending school. **Mr. Besom** is a member of the Presbyterian Church in Perry Valley.

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