

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

Henry Billman, Falling Spring, Perry County, Pa., son of **Daniel** and **Catharine (Wentzel) Billman**, was born in Northumberland County, Pa., September 13, 1835. His paternal grandparents were natives of Lancaster County, and farmed. The grandmother's maiden name was **Mower**. They had these children: **David**; **Peter**; **Daniel**; **Jacob**; **Solomon**; and **Rebecca**, wife of **Jacob Tressler**. Both grandparents were members of the Lutheran Church, the grandfather holding office in the same. **Mr. Billman's** maternal grandparents were natives of Northumberland County. The grandfather, **Abraham Wentzel**, a farmer all his life, married **Miss Catharine Cobel**. They reared a family of eight children: (**Mrs. Henry Hepler**); **Daniel**, resides at Blain, Perry County; **John**, died in 1858, aged fifty-five years; **Polly (Mrs. Isaac Sortman)**, died in 1874; **Sallie (Mrs. Honicle Conrad)**, died in 1874; **Elizabeth (Mrs. John Adams)**, died in 1888, aged seventy-four; **Hannah (Mrs. Jeremiah Adams)**, died in 1894; and **Catharine (Mrs. Daniel Billman)**. **Mr.** and **Mrs. Abraham Wentzel** were members of the Reformed Church, **Mr. Wentzel** serving as deacon and elder. He died in 1837, his wife surviving until 1861, when she died at the advanced age of eighty years.

Daniel Billman, father of **Henry Billman**, was born in Schuylkill County, Pa., and was a shoemaker. He worked at his trade for a number of years and later engaged in farming. Coming to Perry County, in 1858, he settled on the farm adjoining that on which his son **Henry** now resides, both farms being owned by the latter. The farm first referred to was formerly known as the **Lightner** farm, and was owned by **John Shumaker**. **Mr. Billman** was married in 1833 to **Catharine**, daughter of **Abraham Wentzel**. They had eleven children, seven of whom survive: **Henry**; **Daniel**, resides in Carroll Township; **Isaac**, resides in Spring Township; **Adam**; **Rebecca (Mrs. Daniel Serphing)**, of Landisburg, Perry County; **Henrietta (Mrs. John Stambaugh)**; **Mary (Mrs. David Campbell)**; **Jordan**, was killed by lightning in 1872, aged twenty-one years; **John**, died in 1890, aged fifty-six years; **Arasman**, died in 1891, aged forty years; and **Eli**, died young. **Mr.** and **Mrs. Daniel Billman** were members of the Lutheran church, in which **Mr. Billman** held various offices. He died in 1885, aged seventy-seven years; his wife died in 1889, at the age of seventy-five years.

Henry Billman received his education in the public schools, which he attended up to his seventeenth year. He was raised on the farm, but at the age of seventeen he apprenticed himself to a carpenter. He served two years, and in all worked at his trade for sixteen years. In 1858, he returned to his father's farm in Spring Township, and there worked at carpentry. In 1869, he removed to his present farm, and here his mechanical skill served him well, enabling him to erect all the buildings on his farm himself.

Mr. Billman was married, in 1862, to **Sarah J.**, daughter of **John** and **Elizabeth (Bower) Shumaker**. The grandfather of **Mrs. Billman** was **Henry Shumaker**, a native of Lancaster County, a farmer and distiller, who came to Perry County in 1806 and settled in Spring Township. He had been married three times. His son **John**, father of **Mrs. Billman** was born in Perry County, and followed farming all his life. He was married to **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Solomon** and **Mary (Briner) Bower**. They had these children: **Sarah J.**; **William**, resides in

Washington City; **Eliza (Mrs. Henry Sheibley)**, of Decatur, Ill.; **John; Kate (Mrs. William Sperra)**; and **Susan (Mrs. Henry Yohn)**, died in 1882, aged fifty-six years.

Mr. and Mrs. Shumaker were members of the Lutheran Church, the father having held all the offices. He died in 1880, at the age of seventy-eight years. **Mrs. Shumaker** then made her home with her daughter, **Mrs. Billman**, where, in 1886, she died, lacking just one year of being four score.

Mr. and Mrs. Billman have six children: **Clara (Mrs. Walter Weibly); John; Daniel H.; Aaron H.; Minnie M.**; and **Albert**, died in infancy. **Mr. Billman** is a member of the Lutheran Church, and has been a trustee and an elder for twelve years. He is one of the most highly respected citizens in his township.

www.theperryhistorians.org