

History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, By H. H. Hain, Harrisburg, Pa., 1922 - Hain-Moore Company, Publishers, Harrisburg, Pa.

**David Billow** was another Perry Countian who attained honor in his adopted state. He was the first layman to be elected as president of the Board of Directors of Wittenberg College at Springfield, Ohio. **David Billow**, a son of **John George** and **Susannah (Ensminger) Billow**, was born October 11, 1828, near Dellville, Perry County, where he spent his early life on a farm on the banks of Sherman's Creek, which his parents had purchased while still wooded and had "cleared." His education was secured in the rude log schoolhouse of the period, by trudging several miles to school. His principal literature was the Bible, the Lutheran catechism, a Bible concordance and Pilgrim's Progress, but through this study he secured a thorough knowledge of the Bible. Throughout his life he marked texts upon which he heard discourses and, with a wonderful memory, was able to repeat the gist of the various discourses, with much of it verbatim.

His health broken through overwork, he and a brother-in-law, **Wm. Lupfer**, engaged in general merchandising at Dellville for several years. A number of members of his family had moved to Crawford County, Ohio, and he also went to Ohio, locating at Shelby, Richland County, where he remained for twenty years. He followed the mercantile business there. He was also a loyal Unionist and foe of the liquor traffic, when that course was not always easy. He was a student in all things of an educational and religious nature, and naturally became a leader. For a number of years, 1872 to 1876, he was on the Board of Directors of Wittenberg College, located at Springfield. During this period he served several years as secretary and one year as president of the board, the first layman to fill that position.

On February 26, 1852, he was married to **Miss Susan Tressler**, a daughter of **David** and **Mary Catharine (Bernheisel) Tressler**.

[www.theperryhistorians.org](http://www.theperryhistorians.org)