

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

Henry Bixler, Eshcol, Perry County, Pa., was born at Eshcol, November 18, 1827. He is a son of **Joseph** and **Mary M. (Long) Bixler**. His grandparents, **Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bixler**, came from Lykens Valley, in Dauphin County, with their family. **Mr. Bixler** bought a mill at Eshcol, which was afterwards burned down; he erected another mill, but did not live very long after. His wife, **Mrs. Barbara Bixler**, survived him for many years, attaining to a very advanced age; she was married a second time, to **John Miller**. Their son, **Joseph Bixler**, was still a young man at the time of his father's death. Shortly after that event, the mill property was sold by the sheriff; and for some years **Joseph Bixler** cultivated rented farms, on shares. Through his industry and good management, he at length became able to purchase, in partnership with his brothers, a farm of 232 acres; he afterwards purchased his brothers' shares in the property, and became its sole owner. He was born in 1802; about 1825 he married **Mary M. Long**; their children are: **David**, deceased; **Henry**; **Elizabeth (Mrs. John Lyons)**, of Tuscarora Township; **John**, farmer and merchant at Sandy Hill, Perry County; **Jacob**, deceased; **Mary (Mrs. Ross Hench)**, deceased; **Catherine**, married to **Daniel Shuman**, who died, afterwards to **Peter Baker**, of Huntingdon County; **Lydia Ann (Mrs. Thomas Harkison)**, of Juniata County, Pa.; and **Barbara E. (Mrs. J. D. Baker)**, of Eshcol. **Joseph Bixler** was a Whig, and later a Republican. He died March 7, 1854; his wife in July, 1862. They were good members of the Reformed Church.

The common schools of Saville Township, with their scanty three months' terms in the winter season, afforded all **Henry Bixler** the educational advantages that he enjoyed; and in harvest seasons, threshing times, and other busy days, his assistance was indispensable on the farm. He was set at work as soon as he was able to give any help at all; his knowledge of agriculture therefore became more intimate and thorough than his acquaintance with books. It was in the spring of 1829, when **Henry** was about a year and a half old, that his father and two uncles bought the farm which **Henry Bixler** now owns. Upon it stood an old log house, in which he passed much of his boyhood; in 1846, his father replaced that primitive dwelling by a better house, still of logs, but weather-boarded. In the spring of 1852, the year after his marriage, he began farming for himself, on a part of the homestead. When the property was appraised, in 1863, he bought 129 acres of the farm, and resided in the old dwelling until he built his new home, on the same farm, in 1890, and moved into it the next year, in the spring. By economy and careful management, with diligent and persevering effort, **Mr. Bixler** has made his way to his present position of ease and comfort. He is a Republican; he served the township for one term on the school board.

Henry Bixler was married, December 2, 1851, to **Sarah A. Hench**, of Tuscarora Township, Perry County. Their children are: **Mary Alice (Mrs. James L. Campbell)**, of Tuscarora Township; **Joseph A.**, farmer on the homestead, married **Annie McVey**; **John N.**, teaching a school at Maiden, Ill.; **Sarah Almira (Mrs. Martin L. Stuber)**, of Saville Township; **Rev. Cassius C.**, missionary of the Presbyterian Church in Brazil, South America, sent out in the fall of 1896; and **Anna T.**, at home. The excellent wife of **Henry Bixler**, the partner of his cares and labors, died in July, 1872; she was a devout Christian, a member of the Reformed Church.