

John Bixler, Sandy Hill, Perry County, Pa., was born April 10, 1832, in Saville Township, Perry County, Pa., son of **Joseph** and **Mary Bixler**. He passed his youth on the farm of his father, and worked there as long as his father lived. At the age of twenty-one, he went as a learner into the grist-mill with his brother, **David Bixler**; this he did in order to be prepared to take charge of his father's mill, according to his father's directions, in case his brother should decide not to remain in that business. **Mr. Bixler** was thus occupied from 1853 to 1855. At the age of twenty-five, he became clerk in a store in Ickesburg, which he bought in 1857, and in which he carried on business very prosperously until 1860. He then entered into a partnership with **Frederick Hartman**, at Blain, Pa., which lasted for three years, and in the spring of 1862 he removed to the place on which he now lives, a property of 150 acres. In the fall of that year, **Mr. Bixler** was drafted for service in the United States army. When his company was made up he marched with it to Harrisburg, Pa., where he was elected captain. The company was chiefly composed of Democrats who, although he is a Republican, were friendly to him. Among the members of the regiment, however, he had opponents who preferred to see him in the ranks. Having engaged a farmer to take charge of his place, **Mr. Bixler** before proceeding to the seat of war, had started to make a visit at home, in order to see that all was going on well there, when he received word that his company had been consolidated with one from Lancaster County, and that one of the Lancaster men had been made captain. He immediately returned, and found the information correct, and himself superseded.

The majority of his company advised him to petition for another election, but he declined to insist, and walked out of Camp Curtin. Being challenged by the sentinel, he threw back his coat and showed his stripes, and was allowed to pass. His enemies endeavored to persuade Provost Marshal **Benjamin McIntire**, of Perry County, to arrest him for desertion, but **Mr. McIntire** refused. A similar attempt was made with **Hiram Fertig**, who succeeded **McIntire** as provost marshal; but he told **Mr. Bixler** that he could not and would not arrest him, but would lay the case before Governor Curtin, which he did; and Governor Curtin, learning the facts, decided that **Mr. Bixler** was to be allowed to remain at home. In the same year he opened a general store, was appointed postmaster at Sandy Hill, and has held the office continuously ever since, being the only man in Perry County who has had the honor of so long a tenure of office. In the early years of his life, he taught school for several terms. He is a staunch Republican, having made that party his deliberate choice from boyhood. He was led to this choice by finding in the course of his geographical studies at school that Virginia, a slave State, was less wealthy than Pennsylvania, a free State, with no greater natural advantages; and desiring to belong to that party whose ideas would most benefit the country at large, his reasoning born the above fact led him first into the Whig, and afterwards into the Republican party.

John Bixler was married in 1859 to **Elizabeth Long**, of Eshcol, Pa. Their children are: **Lemuel Curtin**, at home, engaged in the cultivation of his father's farm; **Elmer H.**, an instructor in the high school at Carlisle, Pa.; **Clara (Mrs. D. R. Flickinger)**, of Madison Township; **Annie Lulu**, of Philadelphia; **Clinton J.**, died an infant; **Minnie E. (Mrs. Milton Kline)**, of Harrisburg, Pa.; and **Calvin R.**, died in infancy. **Mr. Bixler** was ordained an elder in the Reformed Church, but declined to be continued in active exercise of the office.