

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

Abraham Bower, Falling Spring, Perry County, Pa., was born in Madison Township, Perry County, on what was known as the Ulrich farm, October 11, 1833. He is a son of **Joseph** and **Anna Mary (Arnold) Bower**. His great-grandfather, **Stephen Bower**, was a native of Germany; the time of his emigration is not known. His grandfather, **Abraham Bower**, was among the early settlers of Perry County. He came from Franklin County, Pa., in 1790, bought a farm and cultivated it for many years. He was also a distiller and used to haul his whiskey to Baltimore, Md. He was married to Miss **Jane Billman**. They had a large family of sons and daughters. Mr. **Abraham Bower** was one of the first commissioners of Perry County, and served for many years. He died at the age of sixty-two.

Mr. Bower's maternal grandparents were natives of Berks County, Pa. His grandfather, **Jacob Arnold**, came to Perry County a poor boy, but by hard work and careful saving he became a successful farmer, and at the time of his death owned several fine farms in Madison Township. He was married to **Miss Tressler**, and had a family of sons and daughters. Mr. Bower's father, **Joseph Bower**, a native of Perry County, spent his life in the cultivation of the soil. He was married to **Mary Ann**, daughter of **Jacob** and **Malinda (Tressler) Arnold**. They had six children: **Abraham**; **Sarah (Mrs. John Yoder)**, living near Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pa.; **John A.**, a merchant at Bridgeport, Perry County; **Esther (Mrs. David B. Dromgold)**, of Landisburg, Pa.; **Mary Ann (Mrs. Emanuel Souders)**; and **Mary J.**, died aged nine years. Mr. **Joseph Bower** died March 1, 1845, aged thirty-four; his **widow** is eighty-two, and resides with her youngest daughter. She is an active member of the Lutheran church, in which her husband was an office bearer. At the time of his death he was an elder.

Abraham Bower owes much of his usefulness in life to the careful training of pious parents. His educational advantages were limited. He grew up on the farm, and at his father's death, which occurred when he was twelve, went to live with his grandfather **Arnold** in Madison Township, working on the farm during the summer. The next summer he hired as farm laborer to **Jonathan Arnold** for several years. But in the following spring his mother decided to cultivate the farm of the heirs of **Joseph Bower**, that she might be able to keep her family at home. As **Abraham** was the eldest, he was made manager for five years. At the end of five years he bought out the interests of the other heirs and began farming for himself. Mr. Bower is an enterprising citizen and has done much for the improvement of the township. He was actively interested in the construction of the Perry County Railroad, of which he is a director and a large stockholder. He owns the Perry County Warm Springs, where he has erected a large and convenient dwelling, making it an attractive summer resort. An analysis of the Warm Springs water is given below. He is interested in all the affairs of his township, has served as auditor, and was a school director for twelve years. In 1888, he was nominated for congressman on the Democratic ticket, for the Fourteenth District of Pennsylvania, composed of the counties of Lebanon, Dauphin and Perry.

Abraham Bower was married, February 22, 1855, to **Mary Ann**, daughter of **Jeremiah** and **Susan (Bernheisel) Dunkelberger**. Their children are: **Alice B. (Mrs. Snyder)**, of Spring Township; **Annie N. (Mrs. John W. Kennedy)**, Harrisburg, Pa.; **David L.**, cashier for the

Boston Merchants' Association, married **Addie B.**, daughter of ex-Sheriff **Clouser**, of Bloomfield; **Edgar T.**, at home; **Jeremiah D.**, clerk in the Philadelphia Bourse, room K, Philadelphia; and **Samuel A.**, who was killed in the railroad yards at Harrisburg, Pa., in 1886, aged twenty-eight. The family belongs to the Lutheran church, of which Mr. Bower has been a member since he was twenty-one. He has been deacon and elder, and is now secretary of the church council.

Following is a copy of the analysis of the Warm Springs water, made by the chemist of the Board of Health of Philadelphia, and dated at the chemical laboratory. City Hall, Philadelphia, February 19, 1897. Since the receipt of this letter, the water has been placed on the Philadelphia market, with satisfactory results.

"Analysis No. 1556. Sample of water from the Perry County, Pa., Warm Springs, located on the banks of Shermans creek, at the foot of Quaker Hill, furnished by Mr. Walter Byrnes, February 12, 1897.

Condition: Clear, Colorless.

Reaction: Slightly Alkaline.

There is a small quantity of Carbonic Acid Gas in solution. The mineral constituents are probably combined as follows:

| | Parts in a Million. |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Calcium Sulphate | 8.84 |
| Calcium Carbonate | 77.50 |
| Magnesium Carbonate, | 10.71 |
| Silica, | 11.00 |
| Sodium Chloride, | 8.00 |
| Oxide of Iron, | 0.80 |
| Alumina, | 1.20 |
| Organic matter (of vegetable origin), | 20.00 |
| Total solids, | 138.05 |

"It contains no Nitrates, Nitrites, Free Ammonia or Albuminoid Ammonia. It is thoroughly aerated, palatable and wholesome water of great purity with mildly laxative properties.

Respectfully submitted, "(Signed) W. C. Robinson, Jr.,

"Chemist to the Board of Health, "Room 713, City Hall."

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