

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

**Jacob Bowers**, merchant, Newport, Perry County, Pa., was born June 17, 1846, in New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa., son of **John** and **Elizabeth (Peifer) Bowers**. His grandfather, **Andrew Bowers**, was born at Württemberg, Germany. He was a hotel-keeper, and died in his native place at the age of ninety-five years.

**John Bowers**, father of **Jacob Bowers**, was born in Württemberg, Germany, in 1821. When a young man, he emigrated to America, making the trip of four months across the ocean in a sailing vessel, and entering port at New York. He was a tanner, and first found employment for six months at Philadelphia, after which he worked at Columbia for seven years; he then removed to New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa., where he owned and operated two tanneries. Disposing of his property and business at New Bloomfield, he built a new tannery at Mannsville and carried on the business there for seven years. His next change was to a farm of 90 acres, which he purchased in Howe Township, Perry County, and which he cultivated during the following nine years. Returning then to Mannsville, he carried on the tannery until his death, which occurred seven years after, in 1871. He was a Democrat, and for four years was the postmaster at Mannsville, Pa. His church fellowship was with the Lutherans. He married **Elizabeth Peifer**, a native of Lancaster County, who died in April, 1896. Their children are: **Jacob; John**, born at New Bloomfield, Pa., April 25, 1849, has been occupied on the farm, in the tannery and as a laborer, married and has two children; **Theodore**, employed in the railroad car shops at Harrisburg, Pa., and **Mary (Mrs. John Habecker)**, who died at East Newport; **Daniel**, born August 20, 1856, educated in the public schools, was associated with his brother in boating, etc., built in 1889 the dwelling and store occupied by his brother, married **Isadore Fleick**, and has had six children, two of whom are deceased; **David**, died young; **Lizzie**, married first **Charles Smith** and afterwards **James Weaver**, resides at Newport; **Annie** and **Aaron**, twins, **Annie** died young and **Aaron** is a barber at Newport, Pa.

**Jacob Bowers** attended the schools in his native place and in Howe Township. During his vacations, he was engaged in farming and in hauling timber from the mountains. When he was eighteen years of age, his parents removed to Mannsville, where his father opened a store and a tannery. During the seven years they remained there, **Jacob Bowers** did most of the business for his father, and during the last year he had charge of the store himself. He then removed to East Newport, where he worked as a laborer for eight years, after which he and his brother **Daniel** were engaged together in boating for ten years. Their line was from Huntingdon to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Nanticoke and Williamsport. The first boat they owned was the "Frank E. Billings." They next added the "T. H. Milligan," next the "Mina" and "Minnie" and "John Hoffer," and the next was the "Mollie." In 1889, the brothers abandoned the boating business and **Jacob** in 1890 embarked in his present business, a general store kept in the building erected by his brother **Daniel**. He began on a small scale, but the increase of trade has since compelled him to enlarge his store twice. **Mr. Bowers** is a Democrat, and an advocate of the free coinage of silver. He has been a member of the Lutheran Church for eighteen years.

