

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

Abraham Cauffman, retired farmer, Nekoda, Perry County, Pa., son of **Henry** and **Elizabeth (Long) Cauffman**, was born January 21, 1822. The family name was originally spelled **Kauffman**; the ancestors were from Switzerland. **Peter Cauffman**, grandfather of **Abraham Cauffman**, was a native of Germany, and with his two brothers emigrated to America. One of his brothers settled in Lancaster County, Pa., and the other in Ohio. **Peter Cauffman** came to Perry, then a part of Cumberland County, took up 300 acres of land, became a very successful and thrifty farmer, and died here about 1836. He married **Mary** or **Elizabeth Fistle**, a small but energetic and active woman, who died before her husband. Their children are: **Michael; John; Joseph; Peter; Henry; Solomon; Mrs. Long;** and **Catherine**, who died in girlhood.

Henry Cauffman, father of **Abraham Cauffman**, was born on the farm now owned by **Mr. Barner** in Liverpool Township, Perry County, Pa., August 14, 1796. He obtained a fair education, partly in the schools of his locality, but in great measure through reading. He had a love for good books, and was very fond of reading aloud. He read the German Bible through five times, and the English Bible seven times. It was his custom to have family worship every morning, he was a warm hearted and devout Christian man. In all business transactions he was prompt and exact, and his word was as good as his bond. In person he was about five feet ten inches in height, and of stout frame. After **Henry Cauffman's** marriage, he bought the farm his son **Abraham** now owns, and first occupied an old log house on the place for six or seven years, after which he built a stone house in which he resided until his death, in June, 1875. He was a staunch Democrat, and served as supervisor. He married **Elizabeth Long**, who died about 1830, when their son, **Abraham Cauffman**, was a mere boy. The children by this marriage are: **Sarah**, died in girlhood; **Abraham; Eliza**, married **Thomas Shellenberger**, died in Perry County, and her husband died near Steelton, Pa.; **Catherine**, died in childhood; **Benjamin**, married **Rebecca Stewart**, of Indiana County, Pa., and lived first in Perry County, afterwards in Indiana County, and then again in Perry County, where **Mrs. Rebecca Cauffman** died; **Benjamin** then married **Mary Ann Meredith**, and they removed to Kansas, and thence to Oregon, where they now reside. **Henry Cauffman** named secondly **Elizabeth Dunmyer**, from the vicinity of McVeytown, Pa. She was born in March, 1800, and died May 17, 1871, without issue.

Abraham Cauffman was born on the homestead, in the old house which was built many years ago. He had limited opportunities for securing an education, since he was the only boy at home and was sometimes helping to do the winter threshing when other boys were in school. On this account he received during some winters only two weeks' schooling. Nor were the teachers always competent. His first teacher was **Ann Watts**, who afterwards became a teacher. **Mr. Porter** was also for a time his instructor. When fourteen or fifteen years of age **Abraham Cauffman** obtained a good set of text books in various branches, and was often after working hours engaged until far into the night in studying. He also took up surveying and by independent study, made himself proficient in this useful science. For many years he remained with his father, and was engaged in farming. In 1866, in partnership with his brother **Benjamin**, he opened a store at Nekoda, Greenwood Township, where the post office was established through

his instrumentality. In 1874 or '75 the store was sold, and he went back to his farm, and about that time erected the buildings on his present farm, which contains about 210 acres. In 1885, he bought his brother's farm of ninety acres; he also owns 180 acres of cleared land in Liverpool Township, Perry County.

Abraham Cauffman was married December 29, 1870, to **Miss Mary House**, of Mahantango Valley, Juniata County, Pa. She was born August 11, 1848, and is a daughter of **Ephraim and Elizabeth Catherine House**. **Three** of the children died in infancy, unnamed. Their other children are: **Ella May**, at home, was a pupil at Annville College, and later at the State Normal School at Millersville, Pa.; and **Annie Elizabeth**, at home. They have also an adopted daughter, **Emma Jane**, now **Mrs. Cloyd Ulsh**. In local politics **Mr. Cauffman** is an independent voter, but on national and State issues votes with the Democratic Party; he has never sought office. He was for many years a member of the United Brethren Church, but later became connected with the Evangelical Church, in which he has served in all offices.

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