

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

Willis W. Cauffman, farmer, Reward, Perry County, Pa., son of **Wesley M.** and **Barbara (Hoffman) Cauffman**, was born in Greenwood Township, Perry County, November 9, 1860. His grandfather, **Daniel Cauffman**, was a native of Pfoutz Valley, and a grandson, on the maternal side, of the **Mr. Miller**, who founded Millersburg, Dauphin County, Pa. He was reared on the farm, and made farming his occupation. After his marriage to **Sophia Long**, he settled on the farm on which his son, **Wesley M.**, was born, and died there in 1844, aged thirty-seven years, having been a prominent and influential man. His children are: **Josiah**, married **Mrs. Steinmetz**, and settled in Bureau County, Ill., where she now resides, a widow; **Mariah**, died aged eighteen years; **Wesley M.**; **Cyrus**, married in Illinois, and lives in Bureau County, in that state; **John**, died in infancy; **Sarah J. (Mrs. Ard Brant)**, died in Raccoon Valley, Perry County, Pa. **Wesley M. Cauffman**, father of **Willis W. Cauffman**, was born on the old homestead in Greenwood Township, February 2, 1833. His education was received in the common schools, and being possessed of good natural ability and a taste for good reading, he became a well-informed man. His proficiency in the art of spelling was unusual; in all spelling contests in that region he invariably came out first in accuracy. He was chiefly occupied throughout life with farming, but he had much native mechanical skill, easily learning the use of all tools, and was usually his own carpenter and shoemaker. He remained at home with his mother, his father having died when he was eleven years old, and the other children having married and removed to the west. His mother was a prudent and practical business woman, and they lived together very comfortably and prosperously. In due time, he brought his bride to the old home, and for eight years carried on the farm for his mother. In 1865, he settled on a farm which he had bought in the previous year, the same which his son, **Willis W.**, now owns and occupies. His mother remained on the old farm for a few years, after which she sold it, and visited her children in the west, in turns, making her home with each one for a time, and journeying to and from the west as she felt inclined. Finally she was taken sick, and after a short illness, died at the home of her son, **Josiah**, in Bureau County, Ill.

Mr. Cauffman was engaged in agricultural pursuits up to the time of his death, which occurred May 23, 1871. He was a strong, muscular man but was short in stature, standing only five feet, five and a half inches. In political matters **Mr. Cauffman** was prominent and active, as a member of the Republican Party. He was of a firm and determined disposition, and was eminently honest and upright. He had many friends and won and held the respect and esteem of all. His wife was **Barbara Hoffman**, now living with her daughter, **Mrs. Sheesley**. Their children are: **Clara (Mrs. Sheesley)**, Susquehanna Township, Perry County, Pa.; **Mary J. (Mrs. Elbert Hufferd)**, Green County, Ia.; **Willis W.**; and **Ada B. (Mrs. William Hebel)**, Buffalo Township, Perry County, Pa. **Mr. Cauffman** was an honored member of the Methodist Church.

The old homestead on which **Willis W. Cauffman** was born, was the farm now owned by **James Kipp**, in Pfoutz Valley, Greenwood Township. He spent his early youth on the farm, and being the only boy, his services were in great demand, leaving him only a limited portion of time for schooling. But he wisely improved his opportunities, and obtained the best education the schools of the locality afforded.

At eleven years of age, he was left to the care of his widowed mother, from which time he bought and paid for all his own clothing. For four summer seasons he hired out for work, three seasons with **Mr. Derrickson** and one with his grandfather, **Samuel Hoffman**, returning each winter to work with his mother and attend school. He was frugal, and saved money, which he used to buy stock for his mother's farm. In the spring of 1877, when he was seventeen years of age, he began farming for himself, and being full of energy and courage, he determined to succeed. That spring, he took his father's farm, which he managed independently, but received many valuable suggestions from his kind neighbor, **Samuel L. Beaver**. The farm continued under his management until April 18, 1888, at which date he bought it from the heirs of his father's estate. It consists of eighty-seven acres, sixty-four of which are cleared, and greatly improved. **Mr. Cauffman** is wide awake and intelligent, and keeps himself well informed on current topics, by carefully reading the best papers and periodicals of the times. His special interest centers in political matters, and as a member of the Republican Party he is prominent and active. For one term of three years he served as school director, and has always demonstrated his belief in liberal education.

Willis W. Cauffman was married, January 15, 1891, to **Sarah A.**, daughter of **Lewis** and **Mary (Troutman) Mitchell**, of Greenwood Township, who by her many womanly excellencies has materially aided him in his successful and prosperous career. Their children are: **Wesley M.**, born April 12, 1892; **Lewis M.**, born May 30, 1893; **Wilbur Harold**, born March 28, 1895; and **Leslie Gerard**, born March 24, 1897. **Mr. Cauffman** is a member of the Methodist Church at Liverpool, Pa., and liberal in support of that organization and of every beneficial public enterprise.

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