

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

John H. Gable, Donnallys Mills, Perry County, Pa., son of **Henry L.** and **Elizabeth (Sellers) Gable**, was born March 20, 1852, in Middletown, Dauphin County, Pa. His great-great-grandfather came from Germany alone, when only nine years of age, having in some way managed to conceal himself on board of a vessel bound for America; it was about the year 1750. After reaching America the little stowaway slipped out into the country, and bravely made his way to Lancaster County, where he grew up among the farmers, supporting himself by such work as he was able to do. He married in Lancaster County, and there his son, **Henry**, was born about 1766. **Henry Gable** was a farmer; he was married in Lancaster County to **Miss Bowman**; some years later, they removed to Pfoutz Valley, where he died at the age of sixty-five. His son, **John Gable**, born August 26, 1791, in Lancaster County, came to Perry County with his parents, but on reaching manhood, returned to Lancaster County to seek as a wife one whom he had left there a little maiden, **Magdalene Lane**, born August 31, 1793. The young couple first resided six miles east of Harrisburg, where he owned a small farm; all their marketing was done in Harrisburg. Later, **Mr. Gable** bought and resided on a farm of 120 acres in Howe Township, Perry County, now owned by **Lewis Messersmith**. It was partly improved, and they made their home in an old log house that stood on the place, until a more commodious dwelling could be built. **John Gable** enlisted for the war of 1812, and was detailed to act as teamster, hauling supplies.

His first marriage took place September 18, 1817, and his children were: **Samuel**, a farmer, born April 25, 1819, married first to **Mary J. Varnes**, and twice afterwards, lived on Duncan's Island, Dauphin County and later removed to Selinsgrove; **Barbara**, born June 4, 1821, married **Daniel Ward**, resided in Pfoutz Valley, where both died; **Henry L.**, born December 6, 1823; **John**, born November 5, 1826, married **Elizabeth Eby**, of New Germantown, Pa., went to Illinois after 1860, and later to New Sharon, Ia.; **Magdalene**, widow of **John Hopple**, born August 2, 1829, resides in Howe Township; **Michael**, born October 18, 1831, married **Lucinda Geyer**, of Juniata County, who died, and he married again, and now resides at Richfield, Pa.; and **Maria**, born May 17, 1834, died young. **Mrs. Magdalene (Lane) Gable** died February 1, 1849, aged fifty-five years. Some years later, **Mr. Gable** married **Mrs. Sarah (Maurer) Grubb**, a widow; of this marriage there was no issue. **John Gable** died on the homestead, October 11, 1875.

His second son, **Henry L. Gable**, was born in Pfoutz Valley, but during his boyhood his parents went to live near Harrisburg, where he obtained work as soon as he was old enough, in lumber yards and other places about the city. His opportunities for education were limited; but, he was an ambitious and intelligent boy, and supplemented the small amount of school training that fell to his lot by independent reading and study, with such success that he was able to teach, and was several times given positions in Dauphin and Perry County schools. Between the school terms, he acted as clerk in a store east of Middletown, Pa. About 1852, his father sent for him to come home and take charge of the farm; he did so, and for ten years cultivated his father's land on shares. He then farmed on the same terms for four years in Perry Valley, and next near Newport, Pa., for three years. After this he returned to the homestead, and conducted the farm until the death of his father; he then bought the place at the appraisalment, and continued to farm it until

near the end of his life, when he sold it to his sons, **John** and **Hiram**. He died January 9, 1888. A few years before his death he became a member of the Dunkard Church.

Henry L. Gable was married, December 5, 1850, to **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Jeremiah** and **Elizabeth (Bowman) Sellers**; she was born September 8, 1828, near Middletown, Dauphin County, Pa., where she lived at the time of their marriage. Their children are: **John H.** and **Jeremiah D.**, twins, born March 20, 1852; **Annie M.**, of Perry County, born March 1, 1854; **Hiram S.**, of Hebron, Thayer County, Neb., born January 12, 1856, married **Margaret McNaughton**, of Newport, Pa.; and **Josiah S.**, born December 23, 1857, married **Annie Miller**, of Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, Pa., and is in the lumber business in Lincoln, Neb.

John H. Gable attended the common schools until he reached the age of twenty-one. When he was seventeen, he began running a steam engine for **George Fleischer**, in his planing-mill; he was thus employed for fourteen years. His next engagement was in the furnace of Marshall Brothers, at Newport, for seven years; then in the position of locomotive engineer for the Newport and Sherman's Valley Railroad Company, for four years and four months. During this time, he became joint owner with his brother of the homestead, he had married at the age of twenty-six, on September 24, 1878, **Isaphene L.**, daughter of **David** and **Martha (Stevens) Grubb**. They first resided with **Mr. Gable's** parents on the homestead for a year and a half, and then built a house on a lot belonging to **Mr. Gable** in Newport, where they resided for four or five years, and then returned to the homestead, which the **Gable** brothers bought at this time. In the purchase was included a brick house in Newport. They afterwards disposed of the farm at public sale. During these years, **Mr. Gable** did not of course give personal attention to the cultivation of the land, being almost constantly employed as an engineer up to the spring of 1895. He resided in Newport after the sale of the homestead, until he bought in 1895 his present farm in Tuscarora Township, Perry County, Pa., consisting of 197 acres, and formerly known as the **John Yohn** farm. Sharing his father's political opinions, **Mr. Gable** has always been a Republican. He has never sought office, but served one term as school director in Howe Township.

On June 23, 1896, **Mrs. John H. Gable** died. She was a member of the Lutheran Church, an estimable Christian lady, whose kindly and sympathetic nature won her many friends. Her loss is deeply regretted by all who knew her. She left two children: **Annie Elizabeth**, born April 17, 1879; and **H. Blaine**, born June 1, 1884. **Mr. Gable** is a member of the Brethren Church.

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