

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

Joseph B. Garber, Andersonburg, Perry County, Pa., was born March 2, 1830, in Madison Township, Perry County, son of **Daniel** and **Mary (Bower) Garber**. His ancestors all came from Germany. His paternal grandfather, **John Garber**, was born in Berks County, Pa., where he grew up and married **Miss Holabaugh**. After his marriage, he removed to what is now Madison Township, Perry County, and there passed his later years. His son, **Daniel Garber**, was born in Berks County. He came to Perry, then Cumberland County, in 1806. He learned the business of farming in early life, was painstaking and skilful in his calling, and at his death, left two valuable farms. He died in April, 1840; his wife, **Mary (Bower) Garber**, died about 1866. Their children are: **Joseph B.**; **Diana (Mrs. Samuel Arnold)**, went to Missouri, where both she and her husband died; **Margaret (Mrs. John Hench)**, is widowed, and resides on the old **Garber** homestead; **Elizabeth (Mrs. William Keck)**, became a widow, and after some years married **Henry P. Lightner**; **John A.**, farmer, of Tyrone Township, Perry County; **Daniel E.**, farmer, of Tyrone Township.

Joseph B. Garber obtained his education in the schools of his township, and of Andersonburg. He was but ten years of age when his father died, and he was obliged to live among strangers. For the first few years, he earned his board by doing such work as a child can do; but being willing and capable, he began before long to receive wages, and thus made his beginning in self-support. In 1850, when he was twenty years of age, he began work on his own account on one of his father's farms, at Cessna's Run. He cultivated that farm until 1854, and in that year, entered into a partnership with **George A. Zimmerman**, in a general store at New Germantown. A year later, the firm removed to Newport, and at the expiration of a second year, **Mr. Garber** sold his interest to **Peter Bensel**, returned to the farm he had left, and continued work there until 1860. He then removed to another farm, belonging to his father's heirs, cultivated it for two years, and in the spring of 1862, once more took up his residence on the old place. In September of the same year, **Mr. Garber** was drafted into the army, became a member of Company F, One Hundred and Seventy seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, Captain Filbert, and was elected second lieutenant of the company. His connection with the army was rather uneventful, involving only the monotonous life of the camp, with its privations, loneliness and exposure, often harder to endure than the perils of an active campaign. After a short stay at Camp Curtin, in Harrisburg, **Lieutenant Garber's** regiment was sent into camp near Norfolk, and performed the guard and other duties assigned to them during the nine months' service for which they were enrolled. Having received an honorable discharge at the end of that term, Mr. Garber, with health much impaired, came home. In December, 1863, he went to Philadelphia, and laid in a stock of goods for a store, which he and his brother, **Daniel E. Garber**, were about to open at Cessna's Run. After they had carried on the business there jointly for two years, **Joseph B. Garber** bought his brother's interest, and continued the store by himself until the spring of 1868, when he purchased his present property, including store-room and dwelling. Putting in the remaining stock from the store at Cessna's Run, he added to it, and conducted the store, with gratifying prosperity, until 1874. He then sold both stock and real estate, and moved into the house he had built at Newport in the fall of 1873. This removal was made with the opening of a hardware store in view; but **Mr. Garber** changed his intention, and went into the drug business with **Dr. Richardson**.

Before the end of the year, however, he sold his interest in the business to **Dr. Richardson**, and his property to **Dr. Orris**, and bought back the old property at Andersonburg. He has carried on the business there with excellent success ever since the spring of 1875. **Mr. Garber** was elected associate judge for a term of five years, in the fall of 1884. Before that time, he had served one term as county auditor. **Mr. Garber** is a Republican, and decided in his political opinions. He is a worthy and reliable citizen, and owes his success in life to his own diligence, good judgment, and honorable reputation.

Joseph B. Garber was married January 5, 1854, to **Matilda**, daughter of **Major John Zimmerman**. Their children are: **Beatty**, deceased; **Luther**, deceased; **William C.**, resides with his father, and is clerk; **Mary E.**, at home. **Mr. Garber** is a member of the Lutheran Church; he was formerly a deacon, and has now been for many years an elder.

www.theperryhistorians.org