

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

William H. Garber, Andersonburg, Perry County, Pa., was born October 18, 1840, in Madison Township, in the old **Garber** mansion, then owned by his father. He is the son of **John** and **Hannah (Balthasar) Garber**. **John Garber** was born in Berks County, Pa., October 19, 1803. At the age of three years he was brought by his parents to what is now Madison Township, Perry County, where he grew up and received his education. After his marriage, he bought the farm now owned by **William Boyd**, and later the one now owned by **Harry White**, where he died, September 15, 1887, at the age of eighty-four.

He was in early life a Whig, but afterwards became a supporter of the Republican Party. He held several township offices, in which he rendered intelligent and efficient service. His wife, **Hannah (Balthasar) Garber**, who was born in 1809, died November 5, 1893. Their children are enumerated in the sketch of their son, **Emanuel Garber**, of Tyrone Township, in this work. **Mr. Garber** was an active member of the Reformed Church, in which he held successively the offices of deacon and elder.

Attending school in an old log school house, for a very few months of every year, **William H. Garber** has not much for which to thank his early opportunities. But as he grew up, he became a diligent reader of worthy and useful books, and stored his mind by his own efforts with much useful information. In 1863, he enlisted at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, Pa., for six months' service, in Company A, Twentieth Pennsylvania Cavalry, Captain Thorpe. His regiment was engaged in no regular battle, and was discharged at Chambersburg, Pa., at the expiration of its term of enlistment. **Mr. Garber** returned home, but stayed there only until September 1, 1864, when he again enlisted at Harrisburg, in Company F, Two Hundred and Eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers. During this enlistment, he was in active service in Virginia. In the midst of a charge on the works at Petersburg, Va., he was knocked senseless, and after recovering, found that his regiment had left him. Joining himself with another regiment, he took part in the charge that was then being made. At the end of the war, **Mr. Garber** was discharged at Alexandria, Va., and mustered out at Harrisburg. He then returned home, and resumed his former pursuits. He is a staunch Republican. He has served the township as assessor for three years, and as judge of elections for one year. He still resides on his property of 131 acres, but does very little active work, leading a rather retired life. **Mr. Garber** is an excellent and much esteemed citizen.

William H. Garber was married in 1878 to **Annie Lesh**, of Madison Township. Their children are: **Laura May**, died May 3, 1894, aged fifteen; **Lawrence M.** and **Maggie Jane**, twins, both deceased; **Grier E.**, at home; **Clark Blaine** and **Ira William**, twins, at home; **Minnie Ruth**; and **John McKinley**. **Mr. Garber** is a member of the United Evangelical Church.