

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

Jerome Bonaparte Lahr, shoemaker and ex-sheriff, Millerstown, Perry County, Pa., son of **George** and **Elizabeth (Knouse) Lahr**, was born in Liverpool, Perry County, Pa., July 11, 1841. His grandfather was an Englishman, and his grandmother was of German descent. **George Lahr** was born in Lancaster County, Pa. After his marriage to **Elizabeth Knouse**, of Northumberland County, Pa., he settled in Liverpool, Perry County, where he died in August, 1842. Their children are: **Peter**, of Harrisburg, Pa., served in the Sixteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry in the late war; **Hannah (Mrs. Jacob Zeigler)**, died in Howe Township, Perry County, in 1871; **Louisa (Mrs. George Huggins)**, of Williamsport, Pa.; and **Jerome B.** After **Mr. Lahr's** death, **Mrs. Lahr** married **Philip Peters**; they resided in Buffalo Township, Perry County, where she died in 1873.

Jerome Bonaparte Lahr enjoyed very limited opportunities for securing an education, ten months in school being the only instruction that he received. His father died when he was thirteen months old, and he lived with his grandfather, until he was six years old; then his grandfather died, and at that tender age he was left without a home. He worked on a farm in Juniata County for two years, then returned to Perry County where he was employed at farm work until October, 1856, when he became an apprentice to **Daniel P. Long**, shoemaker, in Greenwood Township, with whom he served six months. He then worked at Donnallys Mills for **Mr. Hufford**, until June, 1862, when he went to Lancaster and worked at his trade as a journeyman until the following August. From Lancaster he went to Harrisburg, Pa., and enlisted as a private in Company I, One Hundred and Thirty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers. At the battle of Fredericksburg, he was wounded by a ball which passed through the bridge of his nose; he was in the hospital at Point Lookout for six weeks, after which he rejoined his regiment at Camp Falmouth, near Frederickstown, Va. His next great battle was at Chancellorsville, and soon after, about May 6, his term of enlistment expired, and he received an honorable discharge. After a short stay in Perry County, he went to West Donegal Township, Lancaster County, where he worked on a farm for two months. He then opened a shoe shop on his own account in Pfoutz Valley, and continued there until August, 1864, at which date he enlisted at Carlisle, Pa., in Company C, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and served until the close of the war. He joined his regiment at Chattanooga, Tenn., and thence moved to Atlanta, Ga., reaching that place a few days after its fall. The regiment was made part of General Kilpatrick's division, was on picket duty at Atlanta, and followed Sherman on the famous march to the sea. They were in a hotly contested engagement at Greenwood's Station, when a number of men belonging to the regiment were taken prisoners. They moved next to Milledgeville, Ga., then the capital of the State, where they captured the town and got possession of a large amount of Confederate money, of which each soldier obtained a share. Within a few miles of Andersonville, they were joined by thousands of the unfortunate Union troops who had been imprisoned and reduced to starvation by the inhuman and infamous commander of that slaughter pen, and were now naught but living skeletons, whose deplorable condition and manifest sufferings were appalling to the beholder. At Waynesborough, they had a sharp fight with the enemy, after which they moved to Louisville, and a few days after marched by way of Waynesborough to Savannah, where they witnessed the capture of Fort McAllister. They then proceeded northward by way of Barnwell, S. C., Aiken, S.

C., near which, they fought another battle, Columbia, S. C, where they were present at the burning of the town, and Lancaster, S. C, into North Carolina; from Rockingham, N. C., they went to the battle of Fayetteville, where there was a fight, thence to Averytown, where several cavalry engagements took place, thence to Bentonville, and in the battle at this place occupied the extreme left; thence they marched to Goldsboro, N. C, where they rested three weeks, and then went in pursuit of Johnson at Durham's Station, where Johnson surrendered, the regiment served as body guard to General Sherman on that important occasion. **Mr. Lahr** was discharged May 10, 1865, returned and resumed business at Pfoutz Valley, and continued there until March 26, 1867, when he bought property and opened a shop at Millerstown. In the following July, he occupied his present place, where he has since enjoyed a prosperous trade. He was burned out April 17, 1895, but at once rebuilt and proceeded with his business. **Mr. Lahr** is a Republican. In 1886, he was elected sheriff, and served three years in that office.

Jerome B. Lahr was married, November 9, 1867, to **Miss Frances Graham**, of Millerstown, who died July 16, 1890, since which date he has remained a widower. Their children are: **Charles W.**, of Millerstown, engaged in the postal service; **Clara**, married **Dr. E. A. Moore**, of New Bloomfield, Pa.; **Dorff**, a druggist at Millerstown; **John**, died in infancy; and **Jerome Banks**, at home. **Mr. Lahr** is a Presbyterian, in which church he is an elder and superintendent of the Sunday school.

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