

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

**Peter Lauver**, farmer, Millerstown, Perry County, Pa., was born in McAlisterville, Juniata County, Pa., July 19, 1826, and is a son of **Henry** and **Nancy (Auker) Lauver**. His grandfather, **Michael Lauver**, traces his lineage back to Germany, from which country his immediate progenitors came, and settled in Virginia. From this State he removed to the location now occupied by Evendale, Juniata County, Pa., where he engaged in farming. His son, **Henry Lauver**, was born in Juniata County, and was brought up on the farm. He learned blacksmithing when a young man, and made this his principal occupation. After his marriage he resided at Liverpool, Perry County, and worked at his trade for some time, he then moved to McAlisterville, Pa., where he conducted a shop until 1831. In that year, he came to Greenwood Township, where he bought and farmed the **Terry** property, and in the same year he erected the house which his son **Peter** now occupies, and in which **Henry Lauver** spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1879. He was a Republican. His church membership was with the Mennonites, and he was widely known and highly esteemed for his many virtues. He married **Nancy Auker**, whose death occurred in the 70's, and they are both interred in the Auker cemetery in Pfoutz Valley. Their children are: **Catherine**, married **Joseph Brubaker**, and both died in Snyder County, Pa.; **Annie**, married first, **Robert Gilfilen**, and secondly, **Enoch Eby**, and they reside in Kansas; **Margaret**, married **Jacob Smith**, and both died in Juniata County, Pa.; **Peter**; **John**, married **Susan Hoffman**, and resides in Montgomery County, O.; **Henry**, married **Hannah Landis**, and in 1879 removed to Kansas, where he still resides; and **Frances**, died young.

**Peter Lauver** was five years of age when his parents removed to the farm he now occupies in Greenwood Township, Perry County, Pa. For three months of each year, public schools were maintained in this township, and in these schools he received his first instruction in books. But as there were many busy weeks even during the winter months when farm jobs demanded all the force the family could muster, he was sometimes kept from attendance upon the brief annual session. The most important of these winter jobs was the threshing of the grain, which before the introduction of machinery, when it was all done by the trampling of horses or the stroke of flails on the barn floor, was a protracted process; in certain parts of the work it gave employment to even the youngest boy on the farm. At the age of nineteen years all **Peter Lauver's** schooling was over, and he was regularly employed on the farm. After his marriage, he took up housekeeping with his father, and after his father's death in 1879, succeeded to the old homestead, which consisted of 176 acres, on which he now lives in the house built in 1831. His political views accorded with those of the Republican Party, and he was repeatedly called to fill township offices. He was a member of the German Brethren congregation at Lost Creek, Juniata County, Pa. His genial countenance and cordial manner were the outer manifestations of his benevolent heart.

In 1861, **Mr. Lauver** was married to **Susanna Keagle**, of Liverpool Township, daughter of **Frederick Keagle**, who died in 1888. She was a devout Christian woman, performing faithfully and in a most loving spirit, all the duties of her varied relationship in life. She was a member of the German Brethren congregation. Their children are: **Louisa (Mrs. Isaac Burrows)**, of Juniata County, Pa.; **Maggie (Mrs. Charles Emerson)**, resides near Chicago, Ill.; **Milton**,

married **Sarah Long**, is a farmer in Juniata County, Pa.; **Maurice**, died aged twenty-one years; **Emma (Mrs. Stalesmith)**, resides in Mercer County, Pa.; **Laura; Lewis**, married and resides at Springfield, O.; **Mina (Mrs. Joseph Gist)**, resides at Enid, Okl.; and **Cloyd**, died aged two and a half years.

The life of **Mr. Lauver** has been one of earnest and persistent effort, prosecuted from early life with industry, perseverance and adherence to right principles. His lack of advantages at the outset has given him warm sympathy with the young who are similarly placed, and have made him willing to assist all in his power. The loss of his estimable wife cast a shadow upon his way and left him many hours of loneliness. Nearly all his children have gone to homes in various parts of the country, but his son **Milton** remains and cultivates the farm.

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