

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

David P. Lightner, Grier Point, Perry County, Pa., son of **Sterrett** and **Elizabeth (Sheibley) Lightner**, was born in Tyrone Township, Perry County, May 1, 1840. His parents also were natives of Perry County. His paternal great-grandfather was born in Germany, and at an early date, emigrated with two brothers to America, and lived in Pennsylvania. **Jacob Lightner**, grandfather of **David P.**, settled while a young man in Madison Township, Perry County, and resided there during the rest of his life. During the war of 1812, he enlisted in the United States army, and served with great valor. His son, **Sterrett Lightner**, was born in Madison Township, where he resided during his whole life. He was a farmer. At the beginning of the war of the Rebellion, in 1861, he enlisted for the defense of his country in the Forty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served for three years. At the expiration of his term of enlistment, while on his way home with the regiment, he was taken ill in Philadelphia, and died shortly after in a hospital in that city. His widow, **Elizabeth (Sheibley) Lightner**, a native of Franklin County, Pa., and a daughter of **John Sheibley**, resides in Landisburg, Pa. Nine of their ten children are living; they are: **William**, who after three years' service in the Ninth (Lochiel) Cavalry, was honorably discharged, now resides at Landisburg, Pa.; **David P.**; **Columbus**, of Spring Township, Perry County; **Joseph**, of Wheatfield Township, Perry County; **James**; **Theodore**, M. D.; **Martha (Mrs. David Stambaugh)**, of Spring Township; **Melinda (Mrs. Theodore Bryner)**, of Madison Township, Perry County; and **Harriet (Mrs. William Neily)**, of Tyrone Township, Perry County.

David P. Lightner was a resident of Tyrone, his native township, until he was twenty five years of age. He attended the public schools, and afterward took a course of study at Mt. Dempsey Academy. After this, he taught school for three terms, in Cumberland and Perry Counties. During the Civil war, **Mr. Lightner**, like his father, served in the Union army. He belonged to Company H., One Hundred and Thirty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers. After receiving an honorable discharge, at the end of nine months' faithful service, he returned to Tyrone Township.

Shortly after, he embarked in mercantile business at Good Hope, Cumberland County, Pa. He subsequently purchased the Dellville property, in Wheatfield Township, to which he removed, and continued in his former vocation for thirteen years. Since 1880, he has carried on business in Rye Township. While a resident of Dellville, **Mr. Lightner** served as postmaster for six years. On his removal to Rye Township, in 1880, he was appointed postmaster at Grier Point, and filled that position efficiently for thirteen years. In 1893, he was elected county commissioner, and was on that account obliged to resign his position as postmaster. He has also served for one term as auditor of Rye Township. He is a supporter of the Republican Party.

At Grier Point, on November 10, 1864, **David P. Lightner** was married to **Mary Jane**, daughter of **Samuel C. and Annie (Bretz) Greer**. One of their children died while still quite young. Those surviving are: **Annie E.**, wife of **John F. Sheibley**, M. D., of Shermansdale, Pa.; **Elsie May**; and **Charles D.**; the last two reside at home with their parents. **Mr. Lightner** is a member of the United Brethren Church, and his daughter, **Mrs. Sheibley**, belonged to the Evangelical Church.