

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

**Samuel R. Lightner**, Landisburg, Perry County, Pa., was born in Madison Township, Perry County, January 12, 1828. He is a son of **Jacob** and **Susanna (Sheibley) Lightner**, both deceased. The **Lightner** family is of German origin. Mr. **Lightner's** grandparents, **Matthias** and **Eve Lightner**, were natives of the fatherland, and early settlers of Perry County. It is supposed that they resided in what is now Spring Township. They had seven children, all of whom are deceased. Two of their sons, **Loudy** and **Michael**, lived in Ohio; two, **Adam** and **Matthias, Jr.**, in Huntingdon County, Pa.; and the remaining two, **Jacob** and **Henry**, spent their lives in Tyrone Township. The seventh child was a daughter, who died young, and whose remains, with those of her parents, repose in the Power Graveyard, Tyrone Township. Their son, **Jacob Lightner**, was born in 1776; he was a prosperous farmer of Perry County. His wife, **Susannah (Sheibley) Lightner**, was born in Tyrone Township, August 15, 1787. Their children are: **John S.**, born December 4, 1806; **Nancy (Mrs. Peter Schaeffer)**, born May 22, 1808, both she and her husband are deceased; **Henry**, born March 1, 1810; **Peter**, born March 6, 1812; **Sterrett**, born August 14, 1811, died while serving in defense of his country; **Elizabeth Jane**, widow of **Jacob Lay**, born February 23, 1817; **Eva Ann (Mrs. Jacob Dick)**, deceased, born November 12, 1819; **William Lightner**, deceased, exact date of birth not known; **Jacob**, born July 4, 1825, died August 27, 1831; and **Samuel R. Jacob Lightner** died suddenly, February 18, 1861, at the age of eighty seven; his wife survived him until May 1, 1874, dying at the age of eighty-six years, eight months and seventeen days.

During his boyhood, **Samuel R. Lightner** had only the advantage of the brief winter sessions which were then considered a sufficient allowance for the common schools; during the remaining three-quarters of the year he, like most farmers' boys, was kept abundantly busy at farm work and lumbering. Married in 1853, at the age of twenty-five, he made a home for himself and bride in Tyrone Township.

In this early home he lived until 1890, when he removed to the farm on which he now resides, and which he had purchased in 1884. Since his removal **Mr. Lightner** has relinquished the active supervision of farm duties to his son **Frank**. He has been energetic and progressive, very successful, upright in his dealings, and is universally honored and esteemed. He has served in various township offices; is a director of the Perry County Railroad, and takes an active part in matters pertaining to the welfare of the county. He was formerly a Whig, and now belongs to the Republican Party.

**Samuel R. Lightner** was married, October 6, 1853, in Tyrone Township, to **Julia Ann**, daughter of **Samuel** and **Elizabeth (Donaldson) Stewart**, old and honored residents of Tyrone Township. Their children are: **Ada Kate (Mrs. John S. Patterson)**; **Eliza Jane (Mrs. William H. Neely)**, deceased; **George P.**, deceased; and **Frank P.**, agent for the Perry County Railroad at Landisburg. The family attend the Church of God.