

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

**William H. Sweger**, Shermansdale, Perry County, Pa., was born in Carroll Township, Perry County, February 18, 1856. He is a son of **John** and **Elizabeth Reed Sweger**. His paternal grandfather, **George Sweger**, distiller and farmer, was a native of Perry County. **George Sweger** was married twice. Seven children were born to the first marriage: **Elizabeth (Mrs. M. Daugherty)**; **George**; **Samuel**; **Levi**; **John**; **Daniel**; and **Catharine (Mrs. George Smee)**. The last three are deceased. **George Sweger's** second wife was **Miss Mary Hollebaugh**. Their children are: **Mary (Mrs. William Shearer)**; **Ellen (Mrs. David Hair)**; **Sarah (Mrs. Carson Hair)**; **David**; **Rebecca**, widow of **William Smith**; **William**; and **Henry**. **Mr. George Sweger** and his wife were members of the Methodist Church. **Mr. Sweger's** maternal grandfather, **Peter Reed**, was employed in general labor. He married **Miss Mary Swartz**. Their children are: **Adam**, deceased; **George**; **William**; **Anna**; **John**; **Peter**; **Susan**. **Mr. Reed** and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church.

**Mr. Sweger's** father, **John Sweger**, was born in Perry County, February 10, 1815. He worked with his father in the distillery until he was twenty-two. He afterwards engaged in farming, and was for a time a partner in a mill at Dellville, Wheatfield Township, Perry County. **Mr. John Sweger** was prominent in the affairs of the township. He was tax collector and assessor, and was made administrator of many estates. He was married December 8, 1842, to **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Peter** and **Mary (Swartz) Reed**, who was born in Perry County, November 4, 1818. Their children are: **William H.**; **George W.**, died December 18, 1862, aged nineteen years, one month and seven days; and **Alexander**, died December 25, 1862, aged sixteen years, three months and six days. **Mr. John Sweger** was a member of the Methodist Church, in which he was a trustee. He was actively engaged in church work and was very liberal; he gave the ground on which the church building was erected. For many years he held the position of sexton. He died February 5, 1890, aged seventy-four years, eleven months and twenty four days; his **wife** died February 9, 1893, aged seventy-three.

**William H. Sweger** grew up on the farm, until he was seventeen; he attended the district schools of Perry County and worked with his father during the summer. He afterwards farmed for his father for one-third of the profits. For some time he cultivated the old homestead on which he was born, and at the same time worked at carpentry. In 1882, he removed to the farm on which he now resides. He cultivated this land for a one-third interest, until his father's death in 1890, when he rented the farm and retired from business.

**William H. Sweger** was married, November 28, 1878, to **Susan**, daughter of **Adam** and **Elizabeth (Bair) Zorger**. They have one son, **John H.**, a pupil at the New Bloomfield Academy. **Mr. Sweger** and his family are members of the Methodist Church, of which he has been steward for the last nine years, and president of the board of trustees since 1890. He is also very active in Sunday-school work, of which he has been assistant superintendent, secretary, and treasurer. He is at present superintendent of the Sunday-school, in which his wife is an active worker; he has held the office of treasurer since 1893. For many years **Mr. Sweger** was sexton of the church. **Mrs. William Sweger** was born April 1, 1862. Her paternal grandparents spent their lives on the

farm. They had five children: **Michael**; **Susan (Mrs. Henry Brubaker)**, deceased; **Jacob**; **Charles**; and **Adam H.**, deceased. Her maternal grandparents were natives of York County, Pa. Her grandfather was a farmer in his native county. They had eight children: **David**; **Martin**; **Nancy (Mrs. Jack Festenbaugh)**; **Mary**; **Elizabeth**; **John Samuel**; and **George**. All except the first two are dead. **Mrs. Sweger's** parents were natives of York County. Her father, **Adam Zorger**, a merchant and dealer in grain, removed to his farm in Carroll Township, Perry County, in 1881. He was interested in the affairs of the township, and for some years served as tax collector. He was married to **Miss Elizabeth Bair**. Their children are: **John**; **Elizabeth (Mrs. William Meyers)**; **Lydia (Mrs. Daniel Stine)**; **Jacob**; and **Susan (Mrs. William H. Sweger)**. **Mr. Zorger** died October 17, 1893, aged seventy-four; his **wife**, December 10, 1890, aged sixty-nine.