

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

**Louis H. Zeigler**, farmer, Millerstown, Perry County, Pa., son of **Daniel** and **Mary (Keiser) Zeigler**, was born in Liverpool Township, Perry County, November 13, 1858. **Daniel Zeigler** was born near Marklesville, Perry County, Pa., December 25, 1816. At the age of six months he was left by the death of his father to the sole care of his widowed mother. There is no information concerning his early years, but the character developed by him shows clearly enough that his mother's care and training were faithful and judicious. When he was twelve years of age, his mother married **Mr. Hufford**, a shoemaker, with whom **Daniel** worked for some time, and acquired a knowledge of the trade, but as soon as he was large and strong enough for other work he abandoned the bench and shop, and in connection with his brothers, secured a contract for chopping and began work on his own account. The scene of their labors was somewhere west of Duncannon, and the wood was designed for the Montebello Furnace, being cut and delivered in the winter. The brothers kept bachelors' hall in a log house, built and furnished in primitive style, with a chimney built on the outside and occupying almost the whole of one end of the cabin, which with its large open flue furnished all the ventilation needed; their beds were of straw covered with a blanket. There was laborious occupation here, and slender means of comfort, but genuine contentment and happiness were not wanting, and a review of life fails to show any happier days than these passed in the old log hut in the woods. In the course of several years the contract was fulfilled, the timber camp was deserted, and **Mr. Zeigler** found occupation at Duncannon with **Isaac Keiser**, who kept a hotel, in connection with which he cultivated a small farm. **Mr. Zeigler's** part was to manage the farm, and at times also to attend the bar in the hotel. The hotel was well patronized by the employees of the Duncannon Iron Works, and was the scene of much conviviality, and it was not strange that sometimes the hilarious proceedings passed the bounds of propriety, while in Duncannon, the Clarks Ferry dam was constructed, on which **Mr. Zeigler** found employment, first as a hand, and later as a boss, his employees having discerned in him the capacity and sober habits which qualified him for the position. As the result of his five years' stay at Duncannon he accumulated five hundred dollars. The next business venture of **Mr. Zeigler** was the purchase and occupancy of a large tract of heavily wooded land in Susquehanna Township, Juniata County, Pa., from which he cleared the timber, converting it into railroad ties, lumber and cord wood, the sale of which netted him a handsome profit. He also improved the golden days of canal boating, by owning a boat of his own, with which he realized large returns for the transportation of freight. After the timber was cut, the land was sold, and **Mr. Zeigler** removed to Liverpool Township, Perry County taking with him about seven thousand dollars, the fruits of his judicious investment, wise management and frugal habits. Here for only a short time he was the tenant of **Christian Leiter**, on the farm now owned by **Isaac Witmer**; but being desirous of possessing a fertile farm of his own, he was induced by the urgent representations of the late **John Holman**, Esq., to buy the **John Ulsh** farm, two and a half miles west of Liverpool, which was then on the market, and on which he spent the remainder of his life. This proved a fortunate investment, for although it adjoined the farm on which he was living, he had not even noticed its good points until his friend urged him to make the purchase. Under his judicious management the capabilities of the farm were speedily developed and here the foundation of his fortune were so securely laid that no panic in the business world could shake them. The Democratic Party of which **Mr. Zeigler** was an active

and prominent adherent honored him and itself, by making him candidate for the associate judgeship and his neighbors manifested their confidence in his probity and intelligence, by electing him repeatedly, during the course of twenty years, to the responsible position of justice of the peace.

**Mr. Zeigler** was first married to **Mary**, daughter of **Isaac Keiser**, who died in 1859; their children are: **Elizabeth (Mrs. George Martin)**, of McAlisterville, Pa.; **Isaac K.**, resides on the old home in Pfoutz Valley, Pa.; **Emma**, married first **Emanuel Lebkicher**, and resided on his father's farm two and a half miles east of Liverpool, where he died, after which she married **Joseph L. Kline**, and they now reside at Academia, Pa.; **Mary Ellen**, died in infancy; **E. D.**, resides in Missouri; and **Louis H.**, the youngest of the family resides in Pfoutz Valley, near Millerstown, Pa. **Mr. Zeigler** passed peacefully to his final reward February 19, 1894, aged seventy-seven. At the time of his death his family consisted of five children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His funeral was an impressive event, attended by a large concourse of the best citizens of Perry and Juniata Counties, all of whom had been his firm and life-long friends, and who desired to pay the last tribute to one whom they recognized as possessing every attribute of honorable manhood. Many men have been more widely known, but few have been more highly esteemed in their immediate circle than was **Mr. Zeigler**. His business methods were characterized by unspotted righteousness, and not one dollar of his fortune was acquired through injustice or oppression. Having to struggle in early life he learned the value of judicious help, and was always ready to aid those who were hindered by poverty. His good name and his fragrant memory are a richer heritage bequeathed to his descendants than the great estate which he left them.

The birthplace of **Louis H. Zeigler** was the **Lighter** farm, now owned by **Isaac Witmer**. When he was a year old, his parents removed to the neighborhood of the Lebkicher schoolhouse, where he received his primary education, after which he enjoyed the advantages of a select school. He was reared on the farm, and lived with his father until March, 1882, when he left home for a tour, being desirous of seeing other sections of the country. He visited different parts of Indiana, Iowa and Kansas. After spending eighteen months in travel he returned home and resumed work with his father; after his marriage, he resided on one of his father's farms, near Mexico, Juniata County, Pa. In the spring of 1890, he removed to a farm in Perry Valley, purchased from **Samuel Beaver**, the father of his first wife. This farm he sold in the spring of 1889, when he took up his residence on his present farm, known as the **Robert Cochran** farm, which he has greatly improved, and on which he now has a model home; he has one of the finest farms and residences in the county.

**Mr. Zeigler** inherits the political views of his honored father, and is a staunch Democrat. His life and conduct have been such as to secure to him the good will and esteem of the community, and he is recognized as one of the progressive and prosperous men of the township. **Louis H. Zeigler** was first married October 27, 1887, to **Laura**, daughter of **Samuel Beaver**, who died June 14, 1890; they had one child, **Lola**, who died in infancy. **Mr. Zeigler** was married again October 10, 1894, to **Jennie**, daughter of **Francis and Susanna (Troutman) Bookwalter**, of the vicinity of Mexico, Juniata County, Pa.; their children are: one **daughter**, deceased, and one son living, born February 28, 1897, **Owen Paul**. **Mrs. Zeigler's** mother died December 12, 1886; her father is still living.