

pioneer families of Centre county, his grandfather, John Weaver, having located in that township at a very early day in its history, and there reared a large family. He was a weaver by trade, and also engaged in farming, owning a valuable and well-improved farm at the time of his death.

Frederick Weaver, the father of our subject, was born in Haines township, in 1803, and being the youngest of seven sons, according to the old saying, "should be a doctor." Strange enough, he naturally possessed a talent for the medical profession, and from youth was called "Doctor." Although he never studied medicine, he used to bleed many people when the custom was in vogue, and manufactured and dealt in medicine, selling throughout the township. He was reared to farm labor, but when quite young learned stocking weaving at New Berlin, Penn., and later engaged in general weaving, manufacturing carpets, bed spreads, cloth, etc.

In Haines township Frederick Weaver was married to Catharine Mark, who was born there in 1798, a daughter of Rudolph and Margaret (Walterbarger) Mark, in whose family were eight children—four sons and four daughters. Her father was a farmer by occupation. To Mr. and Mrs. Weaver were born the following children: William, a farmer of Gregg township, Centre county; Mary, who became the wife of Jesse Wert, and died in Aaronsburg, Centre county; Israel, the subject of this sketch; Aaron D., a resident of Aaronsburg; and Frank J. The mother of these children died in 1876, and the father afterward wedded Mrs. Elizabeth Krull (*née* Lutenbach), who is still living in Haines township.

Frederick Weaver and wife began housekeeping in Haines township, where he had erected a small dwelling upon a couple of acres of land, and there followed his trade of weaving until the spring of 1834, when he removed to a farm he had purchased one mile east of Aaronsburg, comprising sixty acres. This he cultivated in connection with weaving, and added to the original tract until he had 128 acres of excellent land. Although his father's estate was quite large, it had to be divided among so many children that each received only a small amount. According to the provisions of the will, the next to the youngest son received the farm, and was to pay each of the fourteen children \$200, at intervals of two years each, beginning with the eldest, so that it was thirty years before Frederick received his \$200. He therefore had to start out in life with no capital, and the success which he achieved was due to his own unaided efforts. He died

upon his farm near Aaronsburg, in January, 1885, and was laid to rest in the cemetery of that place. His political support was given the Democratic party until the formation of the Republican party, when he joined its ranks. Religiously, both he and the mother of our subject were consistent members of the Lutheran Church, and they were highly respected citizens of the community.

Israel Weaver was born in Haines township, March 28, 1831, and in the subscription schools acquired a limited education, his first teacher being James Polly. As soon as old enough to handle a plow he began to assist in the labors of the farm, which he continued until seventeen years of age, when he entered the shop of his cousin, John Weaver, in Haines township, and learned carpet and coverlet weaving. On attaining his majority he formed a partnership with his father in that business, which he continued until his marriage.

In August, 1853, Mr. Weaver married Miss Luzetta, daughter of Solomon Confer, a farmer by occupation, and they began their domestic life in an old log house upon his present farm, a tract of sixty-five acres, for which he went in debt. Upon the place stood a sawmill which he has since conducted in connection with the labors of the farm, and has made many valuable and useful improvements upon his land, including the erection of a fine residence, which cost \$3,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Weaver have no children of their own, but have given homes to several, including Lucetta, now the wife of B. F. Edmunds, who was taken when a child and reared in their home, as was also her mother, Agnes, and made her home with them from three years of age. At the present time they have a boy, Weaver Edmunds, now eleven years of age. They have not only given homes to the children, but treated them as if they were their own, providing them with excellent advantages. Kind hearted and generous almost to a fault, no couple in Haines township are held in higher regard or have more friends. They are earnest, devoted Christians, faithful members of the Lutheran Church, with which he has been officially connected for years. Like his father, Mr. Weaver was originally a Democrat, but now gives his unwavering support to the men and measures of the Republican party.

NATHANIEL BEERLY, who for eighteen years past has held the office of justice of the peace in and for Boggs township, Centre county, is a typical American, and has record as

a soldier and a successful business man, who as a public-spirited citizen commands admiration and esteem. He possesses rare talent for music also, and this gift has been devoted to the public service in the leadership of the Milesburg band, which under his able direction won the first prize in the famous tournament at Hecla Park, August 30, 1894, as the best band in central Pennsylvania.

The biography of this gentleman is of unusual interest. He was born September 28, 1843, in Clinton county, and is a descendant of one of the most prominent pioneer families. The name was originally written Bierhley, later Bierly, and this form is still adhered to by other branches of the family; but our subject's father, Peter Beerly, chose to adopt the new spelling, which has been continued by his children. The first ancestor, of whom there is authentic record, was Melchoir Bierly, our subject's great-great-grandfather, who came from Bavaria, Prussia, in Colonial times with his wife and two sons—Nicholas, who settled in Ohio and was never married, and Anthony, our subject's great-grandfather. Melchoir Bierly located in what is now Snyder county, on the banks of the Mohantango creek, but during the great "Runaway" caused by the Indian troubles of 1778 he left that locality and went to Lancaster county, where he remained. His wife brought from the old country a beautifully ornamented bottle, which is now a cherished relic in the family of a great-grandson, Melchoir Bierly, of Rebersburg.

Anthony Bierly, our subject's great-grandfather, was a man of note in his day, possessing an unusually keen intellect and forceful character. He was versed in the ancient science of Astrology, and practiced it for a time at Guy. In 1791, probably in the spring, he came to Brush Valley and settled with his family upon a tract of 300 acres, which was leased from Col. Samuel Miles. Mr. Bierly and his son Nicholas, our subject's grandfather, had come to the place in the fall previous to clear a portion of it and plant grain for the next summer's harvest. About half an acre had already been cleared by Mr. Strawbridge, who had also built a hut there, and when Mr. Bierly first came, there were a few huts standing in the woods through other parts of the Valley. Mr. Bierly's house was situated about half-way between the present homes of Peter S. and Anthony Bierly. There are upon the place several apple trees which were brought from the old home, and one now measures thirteen and one-half feet in circumference. During the Revolutionary war Anthony Bierly while living on the Mohantango served in the militia, but it is not

known what engagements he took part in. On one or two occasions, he with other parties followed Indians who had murdered white families. When he brought his family to Centre county he came through Brush Valley Narrows, over the road which Col. Samuel Miles had opened but a short time before, and it is said that Mr. Bierly was the first man who traveled over it in a vehicle. He took an active part in the development and improvement of his locality, and was especially interested in the village of Rebersburg, which was established upon his tract of land. He died in 1825 at the age of eighty-two, and he and his wife, whose maiden name was Warner, were both buried in the Lutheran Reformed Cemetery at Rebersburg. Neither has a tombstone with an inscription. Their children, none of whom are now living, were: Nicholas, our subject's grandfather; John; Anthony, Jr.; Margaret, who married John Philips; Mary, wife of Michael Kehl; Sarah, who married (first) Henry Greninger, and (second) George Lesh; Anna, wife of Philip Glantz; Barbara, wife of Frederick Womeldorf; Rosina, who married Christian Gramley; Elizabeth, wife of Peter Berry; Eva, wife of Michael Ketner, and Catherine, who never married.

Anthony Bierly, Jr., made his home upon a portion of the original tract, and died there July 18, 1857, aged sixty-nine years, ten months and ten days. He married Maria Kratzer, and had the following children: Melchoir; John; William; Susan, who married Joseph Miller; Rachel, wife of Rev. George Young, a minister of the Evangelical Church, who died many years ago; George; Samuel; and Joseph.

John Bierly, second son of Anthony Bierly, Sr., was born February 8, 1779, in Northumberland county, Penn., and was about twelve years of age when he came to Brush Valley. His mother used to tell him how she secreted him in a sugar trough in the wood when he was a few months old, while the rest of the family fled on account of an attack upon the settlement by the Indians. The savages did not discover him, and he was found uninjured on the return of the family when the danger had passed. He married Miss Catherine Berry, of Lancaster, and lived near Rebersburg for forty-five years, but later removed to Sugar Valley, where he died in 1870 at the age of ninety-one. Most of his children settled in Sugar Valley. Hon. Willis R. Bierly, his grandson and a son of Peter S. Bierly, was a member of the State Legislature from Lycoming county.

Nicholas Bierly, the grandfather of our subject, located upon the original tract, and passed his

life there, dying July 25, 1848, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife Lucy was a daughter of John Buchtel, who came to Centre county about the same time as the Bierlys. She died March 26, 1851, aged seventy-three years, and both were laid to rest in the Lutheran Reformed cemetery at Rebersburg. They had ten children, whose names with dates of birth are as follows: Nicholas, February 12, 1799, died in Sugar Valley, aged seventy-eight; Hannah, May 26, 1800, married Henry Meyer; Michael, November 25, 1801; John, September 25, 1803; —, December 6, 1805, moved to Ohio; Anthony, August 26, 1807; Reuben, March 8, 1809, moved to Missouri; Peter, April 13, 1814, is mentioned more fully below; Simeon, March 25, 1817; George, July 17, 1819, settled in Ohio.

Peter Beerly, our subject's father, was a wagonmaker in Clinton county until 1847, when he moved to Boggs township, Centre county, and continued that business throughout his remaining years. He was a man of influence, and in his last years was a Republican in politics. His death occurred December 7, 1868. His wife, Sarah Karstetter, daughter of Rudolph and Margaret Karstetter, was born June 26, 1814, and died March 30, 1887. They were married February 19, 1837, and had eight children, whose names with dates of birth are here given: Robert, December 2, 1837, is a wheelwright and manufacturer at Central City, and a leading citizen, of whom a biography appears elsewhere; Rebecca, April 2, 1839, widow of David Watson, resides in Boggs township, Centre county; Messulan, September 14, 1841, enlisted in the army during the Civil war, and died a soldier's death February 8, 1863; Nathaniel, September 28, 1843, is the subject proper of this sketch; Tartulious, June 20, 1846; Agnes, September 24, 1849, married Byron Teller, a pumpmaker in Boggs township, Centre county; Newton, September 29, 1852, died March 4, 1853; and Lemuel, May 30, 1858, who is also a musician.

Squire Beerly began his business career in his father's wagon shop, but at the age of nineteen he enlisted in Company B, 148th P. V. I., under Col. James F. Weaver. He spent three years in the service, and was detailed as member of a brass band. He fortunately escaped all wounds, although he took part in many hotly contested battles, including those of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Gettysburg and Petersburg. Not until peace was restored did he return home. He worked with his father for three years, and after the death of the latter continued the business in partnership with Robert Beerly, the brother mentioned above, until 1891. They were also

engaged for some time in cider making. In 1894 Squire Beerly became interested in mercantile business at Central City with Louis F. Wetzler, his present partner, and has since conducted it successfully.

On June 1, 1874, Squire Beerly was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Heaton, but no children blessed their union. Mrs. Beerly was born February 12, 1853, a daughter of Andrew and Liddie (Poorman) Heaton. Politically the Squire is a Republican, with a decided leaning toward free silver; and in religion he favors the doctrines of the Presbyterian Church. Socially he belongs to the Grange, the G. A. R. and the Veteran League, and at times held various township offices, having been a justice of the peace since 1879.

As director of the Milesburg band Mr. Beerly has achieved a success in which every one in the community feels personal pride. On the occasion of the band tournament referred to above, the citizens of Milesburg sought to give expression to the popular feeling by giving an ovation to the hero of the hour, Squire Beerly. The borough council took appropriate action, and an elegant banquet was prepared by the ladies of the town at Bogg's Hall. The affair was a surprise to the Squire, who, on his arrival at Central City from Bellefonte, was met by the constable and given to understand that he was wanted in Milesburg to answer to a serious charge. Much bewildered, but willing as a loyal citizen to submit to the authority of the law, he entered one of the carriages in waiting and soon found himself the chief figure in a triumphal procession headed by the Milesburg band, the chief burgess and the members of the borough council. On arriving at the banquet hall in Milesburg the assemblage was called to order by the clerk of the council, and various speeches were made during the evening, the Squire being presented with a beautiful gold-mounted ebony baton, which he modestly received with a few well-chosen words.

DR. F. K. WHITE was born November 24, 1866, in Mechanicstown, Frederick county, Md., and is a descendant of a well-known family of that State. His grandfather, John White, who was of Irish stock, owned and cultivated a fine estate in Carroll county, Md. The Doctor's father, William White, M. D., was born in that State in 1824, at Taneytown, and, after graduating from the medical department of the University of Maryland, located at Mechanicstown, where he followed his profession with signal success until his death in 1885. He served for some