

JOHN H. DEVERS, senior member of the firm of Devers & Miller, of Blairsville, has been for thirty-five years one of the leading, successful and popular traveling salesmen of western Pennsylvania. He was born about two miles from Ligonier, in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, February 7, 1833, and is a son of Hugh and Isabella (McConaughy) Devers. His paternal grandfather, Henry Devers, was a native of France and came to the Ligonier Valley, in Westmoreland county, where he purchased and ran a grist-mill until his death, which occurred in 1836. His maternal grandfather, James McConaughy, whose father came from Scotland, was a presbyterian in religion, a whig in politics and a farmer by occupation, and came, when well up in years, from Westmoreland to Indiana county, where he died, 1886, aged eighty-two years. Hugh Devers (father) was born and reared near Ligonier, in Westmoreland county, where he learned the trade of hatter, which he followed for a few years. He then came to what is now Homer City, this county, where he engaged in the general mercantile business and was the first merchant in the county to buy eggs and produce. He also started the first huckster team in the county and hauled his produce to Pittsburgh. He was for nearly forty years the leading merchant of Homer City. He died while on a visit to Missouri, on October 6y, 1859, at sixty-nine years of age. He was a Methodist, a democrat and a man who had been very successful in all of his business enterprises. He married Isabella McConaughy, who was a member of the Methodist church, and died in 1879, when in the sixty-ninth year of her age. They were the parents of four children: Margaret, Isabella, James and John H.

John H. Devers was reared principally at Homer City, where he received his education in the public schools of that place. He assisted his father in the store until he was seventeen years of age, when he went to Satsburg, where he was a clerk for some time, and then bought the store of his employer, although he had but a very small amount of money. After three years of successful experience as a merchant he disposed of his store and became a traveling salesman for the wholesale dry-goods and notion house of Young, Smith, Field & Co. His field of territory was western Pennsylvania, which he held for twenty-six years and only resigned in 1886 to accept a similar position with Mills & Gibbs, one of the largest importing firms of white goods, linens, notions, etc., of the United States. He has traveled ever since for this firm in western Pennsylvania. In 1885 he became a member of the clothing firm of Devers, Hill & Neal, which die business at Blairsville until their house was burned, December 28, 1887. In 1888 Mr. Devers rebuilt, at Blairsville, one of the finest mercantile rooms in the county, and in April, 1889, embarked, with J. J. Miller as a partner, in his present clothing and gents; furnishing goods business. They carry a handsome stock of goods and have a fine patronage.

On July 24, 1862, Mr. Devers married Elizabeth M. Ogden, a daughter of John Ogden, of Westmoreland county, Pa. To them has been born one child, a son, Edward H., born November 1, 1872

John H. Devers is a republican, a member of the M. E. church, and removed from Homer city to Blairsville, July 1, 1890. When he started on the road as a salesman, over thirty years ago, his laudable ambition was to reach the topmost round of his business, a position which he soon attained and which he has easily held ever since.