The information contained in this biography was supplied by the subject of this sketch. A type-set copy of the biography was sent to the subject to be proof-read, but the subject did not edit and return the copy, so this biography may contain typographical errors.

The information came from Page 765 and 766, Seventeenth Congressional District, General George W. Bigger, Book of Biographies of the Seventeenth Congressional District, Consisting of Columbia, Montour, Northumberland and Sullivan Counties, Published by Biographical Publishing Company of Chicago, Ill. and Buffalo, New York: 1899.

GENERAL GEORGE W. BIGGER, blacksmith of Muncy Valley, Sullivan County, Pa., deserves to be called a self-made man, and is held in high esteem by all who have business relations with him.

He was born in Franklin township, Lycoming County, Pa., in 1843, and is a son of James and Catherine (Race) Bigger, and a grandson of William Bigger. The latter was reared by his uncle, James Bigger, and was in his early manhood engaged in teaching district schools for a living.

Not being satisfied to devote his life to educational purposes alone, he learned the glass-blower's trade, moved to Eagle's Mere, Sullivan County, Pa., and worked at his trade for several years; again the desire for a change overpowered him, and having been economical and saved some money, he purchased a farm, now owned by Jacob Dubler. There he lived and died, leaving two children, Margaret, Hester and James. To the latter he bequeathed his farm.

James Bigger, father of our subject, was born in Yates County, N. Y., near Dundee. He, like his father, also, taught school when a young man, afterwards turning his attention to agricultural pursuits on the farm he inherited. Catherine Race, daughter of Abraham Race of Franklin township, became his wife; she persuaded Mr. Bigger to sell the homestead, which he did, removing to Lycoming County. There he lived for a number of years, a highly esteemed and respected farmer, when he died while yet in the prime of life and in the vigor of his manhood, at the age of fifty-two years. He left his wife and ten children to mourn his demise. The children are, respectively: Robert, George W. (our subject), James, Lafayette, Garrett, Margaret, Marion, Henrietta, and Cynthia.

Our subject's mother contracted a second matrimonial alliance with Mr. Henry Converse, and after his death, a third, with F. P. Meyers, also now deceased. She died August 23, 1897, aged eighty-two years, one month and twenty-eight days.

G. W. Bigger spent the days of his boyhood attending both public and private schools, leading the life most genial to a lad full of youthful spirits. He started out in life for himself by working in a saw-mill where he learned the art of manufacturing lumber. He soon became a contractor.

He and his brother took lumbering jobs in Columbia County for John Wygett, in Lycoming County for E. Lyons and others. Reared on a farm, the freedom of farm life had such a fascination for our subject that he quit the lumbering business and began farming, which occupation he followed uninterruptedly for twelve years; although he found farming profitable, he realized that more money could be made in the lumber business, so he erected a saw-mill of his own at Eagle's Mere where he carried on an extensive lumbering business for four years, and reaped handsome profits. Wishing to invest his earnings safely where he could net good returns without the labor connected with the saw-mill he removed to Muncy Valley, bought a comfortable home, formerly the D. C. Stephen's property, and became a dealer in agricultural implements. Soon after locating there, he was offered the fore-manship of the blacksmith department of the Union Tannery Trust Company, which position he accepted and has retained for the past four years, a fitting compliment to his proficiency in filling it.

Gen. Bigger finds this position not only lucrative but it interferes in no way with his former business, that of dealing in implements, which he still continues. He was united in marriage to Ida A. Worthing, the affable and accomplished daughter of Henry B. Worthing, of Lycoming County, Pa., which union was blessed with seven children: Nellie E., who wedded T. J. Schug, of Muncy Valley, whose home is blessed with two bright children, Leon and Paul; Elinor, wife of David Kassinger, who occupies a position in a planing mill at Gaines, Tioga County, Pa., —their home is also blessed with two bright-eyed little ones, Pearl and a baby; Edmond; Bradley; Hurley D.; Harold; and Ransom D., who are at the old home, where they assist their worthy parents in every possible way and add much to the joys of life.

Gen. Bigger takes great interest in educational matters and has been school director for three years. He is a Republican, and is training his boys in the same political belief. Both he and his estimable wife are willing workers in the Methodist Church. Our subject has an honorable military record. In 1863 he enlisted in Company E, 43rd Regiment Pa. Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged. He re-enlisted in 1864 in Company E, 209th Pa., being discharged at

the close of the Civil War the following year. Thus we leave our subject, now scarcely past the prime of life.

Extracted from: Book of Biographies of the Seventeenth Congressional District Published by Biographical Publishing Company of Chicago, Ill. and Buffalo, NY (1899)