

EDWARD NIXON, the second male child born at Indiana and a prominent merchant and influential citizen of that progressive borough for over half a century, was a son of Robert and Mary (Sutton) Nixon, and was born at Indiana, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, February 25, 1807. His paternal grandfather, Edward Nixon, was a life-long resident of Ireland, where he married a Miss Bracken and reared a family. One of his sons, Robert Nixon (father) was born in county Fermanagh, Ireland, in 1780. He came to the vicinity of Carlisle, Pa., in 1794, but removed the next year to Washington county, and then in 1798 came to Newport, on Black Lick creek, this county, where he was engaged as a clerk in a store for several years with his second cousin, Robert Nixon. In 1803 he purchased some of the first lots sold at Indiana, and erected a story and a half hewed log house on the corner of Philadelphia street and Carpenter's alley. In the upper part of his house he opened a store which was reached by a pair of outside stairs. In 1812 he removed his store to a larger room and in 1832 he opened the celebrated Nixon hotel, of which he was proprietor for several years. He died in 1850, aged seventy years. He married Mrs. Mary Ayers, who was a daughter of Peter Sutton, Jr., and died in 1851, at seventy years of age. Their children were: Edward, George, Mary, wife of Rev. Robert White; James and Robert.

Edward Nixon was reared at Indiana, where he obtained his education in the public schools of that place. He was an excellent mathematician and one of the finest penmen in the State. At an early age he engaged with his father in the mercantile business and afterwards was associated with him in conducting the Nixon hotel. He was engaged in the mercantile business at Indiana for over half a century, excepting four years, during which he operated Sharp's mill and conducted as tore in connection with it. His health became impaired in 1861, and he was more or less an invalid until his death, in 1889. He was a relative of Col. John Nixon, who first read the Declaration of Independence to the people of Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. He was Democrat in politics and a consistent member of the Protestant Episcopal church. At the end of a long, honorable and highly useful life, he passed away on June 2, 1889, and his remains were interred in Oakland cemetery.

On July 3, 1843, he married Phebe Birg Keely, who is a daughter of Henry Keely, and was born at Mifflin, Mifflin Co., 1818. There were the parents of five children: Robert, now a clerk in the post-office, who married Lizzie Hawes, was clerk for Cambria Iron company and lost his wife and three children in the Johnstown flood; Fannie W.; Emma T., who died May 31, 1890; Mary B., wife of Frank T. McAvoy, of Duke's Centre, Pa.; and Virginia B., married to John McCune, of Johnstown, Pa.

Fannie W. Nixon received her education in the public and select schools of Indiana. She was a clerk in Judge Clark's law office for eight years, and in December 1888, was commissioned, for four years, by President Cleveland, as postmaster of Indiana. She is an intelligent woman of unusual business ability, and under her excellent management the Indiana post-office has won its justly merited reputation of being one of the best managed and most systematically conducted offices in the State of Pennsylvania. Miss Nixon is courteous, amiable and obliging, yet insists upon everything in the post-office being done according to correct business principles, and has given good satisfaction to all interested in postal matters at Indiana.