

JOHN A. BELL, the well-known and efficient assistant agent of the P. R. R. company at Indiana, is a wide-awake, energetic and industrious citizen of Indiana county. He was born in Green township, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, December 9, 1849, and is a son of William R and Mary (Lydick) Bell. William R. Bell, of Irish extraction, is a native of eastern Pennsylvania, came to Indiana county in 1836, and located in Green township. He was a very prosperous farmer and came to Indiana in April, 1866, where he has resided every since. After coming to Indiana he was engaged in the lumber business for some time and for the last fifteen years has been janitor of the court-house. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and in political opinion is a democrat. He married Mary Lydick, daughter of Jacob Lydick. She was a native of Indiana county, died September 16, 1886, aged seventy years, one month and nine days, and was also a member of the Presbyterian church

John A. Bell was reared on his father's farm and received his education in the public schools of the county. Leaving school, he entered the employ of the P.R.R. company, November 11, 1867, as warehouse-man and by strict attention to business has attained to the position he now occupies. He served continuously for eight years as a member of the West Indiana council, but resigned in 1888. in 1889 he was elected as overseer of the poor and is now holding that office. He served very efficiently as treasurer of West Indiana borough in 1888 and 1889.

On September 4, 1872, he married Sarah A., daughter of William Lewis of Indiana. They have five children, one son and four daughters, Mamie, Lottie, Lee, Alice and Stella.

J. A. Bell is an active and influential citizen and is ever ready and willing to aid in any enterprise that will be of benefit to the town. He is a strong democrat in political opinion, and always yields a whole-hearted support to his party. He is a member of Indiana Lodge, No. 21, A.O.U.W., Improved Order of Heptasophs, No. 180, P.R.R. Voluntary Relief department, and the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is also a trustee. He has been for nearly a quarter of a century continuously in the employ of the Pennsylvania Central railroad, and this long service fully attests to his business ability and complete trustworthiness.