

JOHN A. JOHNSTON, a successful business man of twenty years' experience and one of the leading merchants of Indiana, was born in Plum Creek township, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1847, and is a son of Andrew and Rebecca (Mahan) Johnston. His paternal grandfather, John Johnston, was a native of and followed farming in Plum Creek township, where he died June 19, 1843, while his wife, Jane (McCreight) Johnston, lived till September 16, 1862, when she passed away in the eighty-fourth year of her age. His maternal grandfather, William Mahan, was a native of county Donegal, Ireland, and came to this country about 1819. Andrew Johnston (father) was born January 23, 1811, and reared in Plum Creek township, where he has always resided, being successfully engaged in farming. He died Sept. 2, 1890, when in the eightieth year of his age, but the hand of Time had dealt gently with him and he was well preserved for an octogenarian. He was a democrat, a prosperous farmer and a member of the United Presbyterian church. His wife, Rebecca (Mahan) Johnston, was born in Ireland, November 13, 1816, and was brought to this country by her parents when only three years of age. She is a member of the same church as her husband.

John A. Johnston was reared on a farm and attended the common schools until 1864, when he went to the oil region of this State. Five years later he entered upon his successful mercantile career by engaging as a clerk with J. W. Marshall & Co., of Atwood, Armstrong county, Pa. In October, 1870, he and Thomas Martin bought out Marshall & Co., and ran for ten months under the firm name of Johnston & Martin. They then admitted John Stewart as a partner, and continued business under the name of Johnson, Martin & Stewart until May, 1873, when Mr. Johnston sold out to his partners. On Christmas, 1873, he formed a partnership with W.G.L. Black, of Ambrose, and spent there in the mercantile business. He then retired from the firm and was engaged in the produce business until the fall of 1879, when he purchased the store of J. P. Leach, on Church street, Indiana. In 1882 he admitted A. T. Lowery as a partner, and in December 1887, disposed of his entire interest to Mr. Lowery. In January, 1888, he bought one-half interest in Fred. Wegley's store, on the corner of First and Philadelphia streets, in West Indiana. In June, 1889, Mr. Wegley was killed in a flouring-mill, and Mr. Johnston, purchased his interest of his heirs. In April, 1890, he sold a half interest to D. C. Mack; the present sheriff of Indiana county, and the present successful and prosperous mercantile firm of Johnston & Mack was inaugurated. Their establishment is known by the popular name of "The Farmers' Headquarters," and they carry a full and complete stock of general merchandise, deal in agricultural implements and purchase all kinds of country produce. They command a large share of trade and patronage.

John A. Johnston was married on December 20, 1870, to Margaretta Black, daughter of Samuel Black, of Armstrong county. To their union have been born five children: Ida E., Olive R., Rebecca A., Wellington B., and Martha B.

In politics Mr. Johnston is a republican. He is a member of the Merchants' and Salesmen's association of Philadelphia, Pa., and a member and elder of the United Presbyterian church. Much of his good fortune and mercantile success is due to his business ability, venture, activity and enterprise, yet a considerable part of his prosperity is attributable to his reliability, promptness and fair dealing.