

MARTIN EARHART, the accommodating and popular proprietor of the "American House," and president of the "Library Hall," of Indiana, is a son of John and Catherine (Shumaker) Earhart, and was born near the tunnel in Conemaugh township, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, on the last day of April, 1834. John Earhart, a man of sterling worth and generous disposition, was born in eastern Pennsylvania in 1797, and commenced life for himself by hauling goods over the "Old Pike" from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. In 1850 he left teaming removed to Saltsburg, where he ran the Earhart house for twenty years, and during all that time he was identified with the interests of Saltsburg and exerted himself untiringly in everything that pertained to the public weal of the place. He was kind and generous to the poor, whose wants he always relieved with great willingness as well as with great cheerfulness. He contributed largely to the growth and prosperity of Saltsburg, in which he owned a considerable amount of property, besides his farm in Conemaugh township. He was a Lutheran and a republican, and served his town most acceptably in many places of honor and trust. In the midst of a life of activity and usefulness he was summoned from time to eternity and passed away April 14, 1864, when in the sixty-eighth year of his age. His wife was Catherine Shumaker, of Boiling Springs, Armstrong county, Pa. She was life-long member of the Lutheran church and died July 4, 1861, aged 54 years.

Martin Earhart was reared on his father's farm until he was sixteen years of age, when he went with his parents to Saltsburg and assisted them in the hotel. He received his education in the common schools, and in 1857 engaged in the livery business at Saltsburg, which he followed for five years. He then came to Indiana, where he formed a partnership with his brother Solomon, who was the proprietor of a large livery stable. In the spring of 1865 he withdrew from the firm, removed to West Indiana and opened a hotel, which he conducted until 1876. In that year he purchased the present well and favorably known "American House," which he has conducted successfully ever since. This hotel, which is on the corner of Philadelphia and Eighth streets, was originally a private dwelling-house. In 1865 Solomon Earhart added an additional story to it and opened it as the "Continental Hotel." In 1876 Martin Earhart became the owner, added the rear wings to the building changed the name to the "American House."

December 29, 1859, he married Celia M. Curry, daughter of John R. Curry, of Blairsville. To this union have been born seven children: John A., William M., Frank H., Celia G., married to A. H. Chesley, of Pittsburgh; Charles E, Flora M., and Harry E. Mrs. Earhart was born January 9, 1839, and passed away on September 16, 1890. She was a woman of many excellent traits of character, and her funeral was attended by a large concourse of her friends and acquaintances.

In the various improvements which have been undertaken for the advantage and prosperity of Indiana Mr. Earhart has always taken an active part. He is a stockholder of the Indiana water-works and a stockholder and president of Library Hall, which was erected for public entertainments. He is a republican and attends the Presbyterian church, to which he is a liberal contributor. He is a member of A. O. U. W., the Iron Hall order, the Knights of Honor and the Improved Order of Heptasophs. He was a member of the school board which erected the present fine school building of West Indiana. His hotel is well arranged and convenient in all of its appointments, while its proprietor cannot be surpassed by any landlord in the State for making his guests comfortable.