

M. C. WATSON. One of the most active public men of Indiana county, and at present a successful leading lawyer of western Pennsylvania, and now, though engrossed with the cares and business of a large law practice, having as deep an interest any Indianian in the material development of the county, is M. C. Watson. Honored with some and refusing other offices with the gift of the people, he has been assiduously devoting himself for the past five years to his profession and individual business interests. He is the son of James and Mary (Pattison) Watson, and was born on Watson's Ridge, in southern part of Indiana county, Pennsylvania, September 28, 1846. Matthew Watson (grandfather) was born in county Tyrone, in 1763, came to the United States about 1793 and located in what is now the northern part of Westmoreland county, Pa. In 1800 he located on the farm now owned by Dr. Thomas Murry in Coenmaugh township and the ridge upon which this farm is located was called "Watson's Ridge" in honor of him. He was a fitting representative of the hardy, moral and liberty-loving race from which he was descended, and was one of the honored and worthy pioneer settlers of western Pennsylvania, who have given character for all time to come to the great region which they reclaimed from the savages and wild beasts of the forest. In 1855, when venerable with the snow of age, but remarkably active for one who had passed the ninety-second milestone on life's rugged pathway, he was unfortunate enough to have his hip dislocated, and failing to rally from the shock he passed away into the unknown world. Ere he left the green shores of his native country he married an Irish maiden, who died in this country shortly after his arrival. For his second wife he wedded Margaret McClelland, who was of Scotch-Irish descent, and a daughter of James McClelland, who came about 1783, with his young wife, from Scotland to Coenmaugh township, where his children were born and where he frequently fled to a neighboring block-house on account of Indian invasions. To Matthew and Margaret Watson were born twelve children: John, Thomas, Matthew, Jr., Mary, William, Alexander, Robert, James, Jane, Isabella, Ann and Margaret. Of the sons, James Watson (father) was born December 16, 1816, and died January 10, 1886, when in the sixty-ninth year of his age. He was an extensive farmer and active business man. He ran a dairy, dealt in stock and operated the Ridge flouring-mill, which was one of the first steam flouring-mills in the southern part of the county. When Morgan and his bold raiders, in 1863, threatened the western part of the State, he enlisted in Co. H. 54th regiment, Pa. Militia, was promoted to commissary sergeant and was present at Morgan's capture. He was a member of the U. P. church, a prominent citizen of his community and a man of keen discernment and scrupulous honesty. His wife was Mary Pattison, by whom he had two sons and one daughter: Alexander P., of Callinsburg, Clarion county, Pa., who enlisted in Co. I, 67th regiment, Pa. Vols., and served three years, of which time four months was spent as a prisoner of war in southern prisons; Belle J., wife of Rev. Hugh Boyd; and M. C. Mrs. Mary Watson was born in Armstrong township, united with the U. P. church at an early age, and died February 9, 1886, aged seventy years. She was a daughter of Gen. Alexander Pattison, who was born in this county and married Martha Scott, a native of Scotland. General Pattison was a son of John Pattison, who emigrated from the north of Ireland to this county soon after the termination of the Revolutionary war.

M. C. Watson was reared in the rural districts, where his father resided, and received his education in the famous old Elder' Ridge academy, from which institution he was graduated in the class of 1872. Having made choice of law as a profession, he went

to the University of Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he entered the law department and spent one year. He then (1873) came back to Indiana, where he read law for one year with Judge Harry White and was admitted to the Indiana county bar on March 7, 1874. upon his admission he became a partner of Judge White and remained as such until 1885. in 1877 he was elected district attorney; his services were such in that office as to secure his re-nomination and re-election in 1880. During nearly three-quarters of a century Mr. Watson has been the second incumbent who has served, and the first who has ever been elected for a second term as district attorney of Indiana county. In 1886 the Republican party of the county, unasked and unsought for on his part, gave him the nomination for Congress, which courteously but firmly declined in order to give his time fully to his law practice. To years later he was sent as a delegate to National Republican Convention of Chicago, which nominated Harrison. In 1885 he formed his present law partnership with S. J. Telford, and they have a large practice in both the civil and criminal courts of this and adjoining counties. He is interested in the material development of the county, in the northeastern part of which he has large interests in coal and lumber. He is also a stockholder and president of the Indiana county Telephone company, and the Indiana county Gas company. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, Indiana; Lodge No. 313, F. & A.M., and a Royal Arch mason of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162.

On December 1877, he married Juliet White, daughter of Colonel Richard White, grand-daughter of Judge Thomas White, and niece of General Harry White. Their union has been blessed with three sons and three daughters: Richard W., Mark H., C. Helen, Mary G., J. Herman and Anna M. Mrs. Watson's father, Col. Richard White, served as major in a three months' regiment in 1861, and then became colonel of the 55th Pa. Vol., which he commanded until the close of the war. He died in fourteen days after arriving home in April, 1865, from exposure during the war.

M. C. Watson is suave of manner and courteous in bearing. He is persuasive and eloquent in addressing a jury, and generally successful in winning his cases. His speeches made in important cases are marked by great strength of argument and force of reasoning, as well as distinguished by eloquent flights and beauty of language.