

SYLVESTER C. THOMPSON, ex-deputy revenue collector of the Twenty-third district of Pennsylvania and a member of the reliable and successful firm of McGaughey & Thompson, real estate brokers of Indiana, is a son of Robert and Mary (Leasure) Thompson and was born in Rayne township, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, Oct. 14, 1840. one hundred years ago his paternal grandfather, Hugh Thompson, left county Londonderry, Ireland, and came to Westmoreland county, but subsequently removed in 1793 to Rayne township, where he followed farming till his death, in 1829, at sixty-five years of age. His wife was Martha Thomson, of scotch descent. Of his sons, one was Robert Thompson (father), who was born on the homestead farm December 13, 1801, and departed this life on the same farm, January 10, 1879. He was an extensive farmer and stock-raiser, a stirring and energetic man and a member and elder of Gilgal church, which is the oldest Presbyterian church in the county. He was an old time democrat, filled several township offices and married Mary Leasure, who was born February 29, 1804, and passed away January 23, 1870, at sixty-six years of age. She was a Presbyterian and a daughter of John Leasure, who was a son of John Leasure, Sr., an early settler of Sewickly township, Westmoreland county, Pa. John Leasure an Indian scout along Crooked run to protect the white settlers, and served as a soldier in the war of 1812. in 1796 he married Jane Culbertson, came to Armstrong township and in 1809 removed to East Mahoning township, where he purchased several farms with the proceeds of wolf scalps, for which he received as high as twenty-four dollars each. He was a great hunter, made his own traps and was known as the "Old Wolf Trapper." His wife died in 1838, at sixty-five years of age, and he followed to the tomb in 1844, when the eighty-second year of his age. A part of his pine lands are selling to-day at from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars per acre.

Sylvester C. Thompson received his education in the common schools and graduated from the Quaker City commercial school in 1866. After the late war broke out he left the farm, and in August, 1862, enlisted for nine months in Co. I, 135th regiment. Pa. Vols. At the expiration of his time he returned home and in February, 1864, he re-enlisted in the Union Army. He became a member of Co. E, 4th Pa. Cavalry, participated in all the battles of his regiment, and honorably discharged at Lynchburg, Va., August 1, 1865. While in the service he promoted to second sergeant. From 1865 to 1885 he was engaged in farming, except six winters which he spent in teaching school. In 1885 President Cleveland appointed him as surveyor of Western Pennsylvania and revenue collector of the Twenty-third District, composed of the counties of Armstrong, beaver, Butler and Indiana, which positions he held until November 1, 1889. In February, 1890, he became a real estate broker. His office is in the Cunningham building, and he is among the leading real estate dealers of the county. He possesses good advantages and can offer the best inducements to investors in town or country property. In addition to the flourishing business which he is engaged in at Indiana, he has to give a portion of his time to the personal management and supervision of the Thompson homestead farm of two hundred and twenty-five acres of choice land in Rayne township, which he owns. Some fifty acres of this land is heavily timbered. He is a pronounced democrat, was census enumerator of Rayne township in 1880, and as deputy revenue collector was highly spoken of for both business ability and efficiency. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, Indiana Post, No. 28, Grand Army of the Republic and the Patrons of Husbandry.

October 14, 1867, he married Mrs. Eva G. Allison, daughter of Abner Griffith of East Mahoning township. They are the parents of two children: Guy C. and Ruecetta. Mrs. Thompson edits the *Indiana News*. She is a graduate of Steubenville seminary. In 1880 she filled the position of assistant county superintendent of common schools and as a teacher was highly spoken of for both ability and efficiency, and is the leader of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of her county.