

ABRAHAM W. BLEAKNEY, one of the enterprising and substantial framers of Plum Creek township, is the fifth child of William and Mary (Yakey) Bleakney, and was born April 16, 1827, in Plum Creek township, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania. William Bleakney (father) was born in Franklin county, Pa., in 1790. He received a common and practical education, was a clerk for some time in his father's store and then engaged in farming for himself. He owned a fine farm given him by his father. He took a great interest in politics, and was a prominent leader of the Democratic party in the community in which he resided. He was a Presbyterian in religious faith, and belonged to the church of that denomination at Concord. In 1817n he married Mary Yakey, second daughter of John and Nancy Yakey, of this county. They had eleven children, seven sons and four daughters of whom seven are living.

Abraham W. Bleakney was reared on the farm and received a common-school education. Leaving school, he learned the millwright trade, at which he worked for eleven years, when he went to California and followed mining for several years. He then went to Ohio, where he worked at his trade for some time and afterwards was engaged in buying and selling stock for seven years. At the end of this time he returned to Plum Creek township where he began farming, at which he has continued successfully ever since. He has a well-cultivated farm of one hundred and ninety-one acres and takes considerable interest in stock-raising.

In 1863 he was married to Kate Bleakney, eldest daughter of Robert and Margrette Bleakney, of Adams county, this State. To their union have been born seven children: Mary A., born in 1864; William H., born in 1867; Robert W., born in 1870; Samuel M., born in 1872; Emma, born in 1874, and died same years; Lydia M, born in 1877; and Thomas B., born in 1882.

In political opinion Mr. Bleakney is a strong democrat and takes great interest in local politics. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church, a liberal contributor to all churches and has always been the friend of the poor. He is a quiet, industrious farmer, a peaceable, law-abiding citizen and a man who gives close attention to his own business affairs.