

AUGUSTUS T. PONTIUS, ex-commissioner of Armstrong county, and a Union veteran who lost an arm in the storm of battle before Petersburg, is one of the successful merchants and business men of Parker City. He is a son of Ezra and Emily (Turner) Pontius, and was born at Dayton, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, December 24, 1841. His paternal grandfather, Jacob Pontius, was born November 3, 1783, in Germany, and came to centre county, from which he removed in 1812 to the vicinity of Dayton, where he was engaged in farming until his death in 1845, at fifty-eight years of age. His son, Ezra Pontius (father), was born near Dayton, December 15, 1814, and died in 1888, aged seventy-four years. He followed merchandising and farming, was an old-line whig and republican, and served in the Methodist Episcopal church for forty-five years as a steward and class leader. Although of limited education, yet he was somewhat noted for business ability and financial success in his undertakings. He married Elizabeth Turney, daughter of Jacob Turney, a dry-goods merchant of Kittanning. Mrs. Pontius, who was a member of the M. E. church, was born in 1822, and passed away in 1862, at forty years of age.

Augustus T. Pontius was reared on a farm. He received his education in the common schools and Dayton Union academy. He remained on the farm until he was nineteen years of age, and taught several terms of school. He then entered the office of Dr. J. R. Crouch, of Dayton, and read medicine until 1862, when he enlisted as a private in Co. B, 139<sup>th</sup> regt., Pa. Vols. He was successively promoted from fifth to first duty sergeant, and was in the line of promotion to a commissioned officer when his right arm was shattered in front of Petersburg, and had to be amputated at the shoulder. He was taken from Petersburg to the hospital at Chester, Pa., from which he was discharged June 14, 1865. He was in the various battles of his regiment, and always performed his duty unflinchingly and with alacrity. The next year after he returned home, in 1865, he was elected on the republican ticket as county commissioner, and was re-elected in 1869. From 1872 to 1880 he was engaged in the fire insurance business at Parker City and Kittanning. In 1876 he came to Parker City, where he was commissioned as postmaster by Hayes in 1878, and served as such until 1885, when he was removed by Cleveland for making political speeches. He then engaged in the general mercantile business, which he has followed successively until the present time.

In 1867 he married Laura S. Goodheart, daughter of Dr. George Goodheart, of Dayton, this county.

In politics Mr. Pontius is a straight republican, and although active in behalf of his party, yet is not a ward politician. He served as mayor of Parker City in 1887 and 1888, has been a member of the common and select council and is now a member of the common council. He is a steward of the Parker City M. E. church, in which he has been choir leader for several years. As a soldier he was faithful, as a business man he is energetic and successful, and as a public official he has always been and is now prompt, accurate and reliable.