

ERASMUS H. RANDOLPH, ex-mayor of Parker City and proprietor of the well-known Randolph Livery stables, was born in Zelienople, Butler county, Pennsylvania, January 30, 1837, and is a son of John and Priscilla (Hall) Randolph. The Randolph family is of Scottish origin, and the American ancestors of Erasmus H. Randolph settled in New Jersey some time during the last century. John Randolph (father) was born in 1805, in New Jersey, where his father died in 1812. His mother then brought him to Butler county, where he was reared and learned the trade of saddlery and harness-making. He conducted a shop at Zelienople until 1856, when he purchased a farm near Whitestown, that county, which he tilled until 1863. He then sold his farm, retired from active life and the ensuing year visited his brother, W.H.H. Randolph, who lived in Iowa, and at whose house he died Oct. 8, 1865, aged fifty-nine years, nine months and twenty-three days. He was a democrat in politics and had always been an industrious and honest man. He married Priscilla Hall, who was born in 1812, and is a member of the Presbyterian church of Butler, Pa., where she now resides. Their family consisted of ten children, five sons and five daughters, of whom six are living, four sons and two daughters.

Erasmus H. Randolph was reared at Zelienople and received his education in private and the common schools of Butler county. In 1858 he went to Kansas territory, where he worked for three years at the plastering business with his brother Joseph V. From 1861 to 1864 he was traveling over the western territories and during the winter seasons of that time was engaged in teaching. The death of his father, in 1865, rendered necessary his return home, where in a short time he bought a portable sawmill, which he operated for three years in Butler county. In July, 1869, he came to Parker City, where he was engaged successfully in the oil business for some ten or twelve years. In 1870 he established his present livery business, in which he has continued up to the present time. He has a selected assortment of fine buggies and a large stock of excellent saddle and harness horses and gives careful attention to the wants of his numerous patrons.

December 20, 1871, he united in marriage with Mary Seaton, daughter of Hiram Seaton, of Butler county, who was a soldier in the late war and fell in defence of the liberties of his country. They have two sons and three daughters: John M., Mary, Edna, Alma and Louis S.

In addition to his livery stables, Mr. Randolph owns considerable real estate in Parker City. He is an unswerving republican, but liberal in his political views and served his city as mayor for two terms (1880 to 1884) and as a councilman for several terms. He was the first city clerk of Parker City, which he has also served as overseer of the poor. He is a member of Parker City Lodge, No. 521, Free and Accepted Masons, and has been a Free Mason for over twenty-five years. Erasmus H. Randolph is one of the reliable business men of his city, whose interests have always commanded his active support.