

JAMES CUNNINGHAM, of Manorville, one of the representative business men and prominent merchants of central Armstrong county, is a son of James and Nancy (Weaver) Cunningham, and was born at Manorville, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, April 1, 1862. The Cunningham family is of Irish descent, and one of its members, Elisha Cunningham (grandfather), was born in Armstrong county, and was a bricklayer by trade. He died in 1860, when he was about fifty-seven years of age. One of his sons, James Cunningham, father) was born in Armstrong county in 1823, and followed his trade of bricklayer until 1855, when he engaged in the general mercantile business at Manorville, where he soon secured a lucrative trade. When Manorville post office was established, in 1862, he was appointed postmaster, which position he held for twenty years. He was ticket, freight and express agent from the time the station was established at Manorville until 1882, when, in crossing the railroad track, he was struck by a train and received injuries from which he died March 21, 1882. he was a republican in politics, a member of the Kittanning Methodist Episcopal church, an Odd Fellow of high rank and an energetic, active business man. He married Nancy Weaver, a native, who was born in 1827. She is the postmistress at Manorville and has been for many years an esteemed member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

James Cunningham was reared at Manorville and received his education in the public schools of that town. Leaving school, he assisted his father in the general mercantile business until the death of the latter, when he purchased the store and was appointed ticket, freight and express agent. In 1887 he resigned his railroad positions on account of failing health. Since then he has given his undivided attention to the interests of his general merchandise business. During the summer of 1890 he built a large and commodious establishment which is well stored with everything in the line of foreign and domestic dry-goods, groceries and other general merchandise required by his numerous patrons.

On July 8, 1883, he married Annie M. Asche, daughter of J. F. Asche, of Butler county. Their union has been blessed with one child, a daughter, named Bessie.

James Cunningham is a republican and has been for some time a member and secretary of the borough school board. He is a deacon of the Evangelical Lutheran church and a member and secretary of Manorville Lodge, No. 290, Junior Order of United American Mechanics, and the Union Sabbath-school, of Manorville. Mr. Cunningham is a good citizen and a capable and energetic business man.