

JAMES D. MCLEAN, now prominent in the political and business life at Atwood, is one of the Union soldiers who were confined in Libby prison during the late war. He is a son of Alexander and Mary (Duncan) McLean, and was born in Cowanshannock township, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, February 2, 1837. He is of Scotch descent and his great grandfather, James McLean, came from Scotland to Pennsylvania, where he settled in Indiana county, near Livermore. He was a farmer by occupation and a strong opponent of the Democratic party. He served as justice of the peace for a number of years and was a member of the old Seceder church. He married a Miss Miller and to their union were born seven children, three sons and four daughters. The sons were: John, Col. Alexander and Samuel. Col. Alexander McLean commanded a regiment of Pennsylvania troops in the war of 1812. John McLean (grandfather) was born on his father's farm near Livermore, and in 1813 removed to Jefferson county, Indiana, where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in August, 1828, when he was in the sixtieth year of his age. He was a whig in politics, a member of the Seceder church and married Rachel Matthews (who died in 1826), by whom he had eight children, four sons and four daughters. One of these sons, Alexander McLean (father), was born on the old homestead farm in Indiana county, September 25, 1810, and removed with his father, three years afterwards, to Indiana. In 1829 he returned to Indiana county, and in 1835 moved to Plum Creek township (now Cowanshannock), where he cleared out a farm upon which he now resides. He was a whig and is now a republican in politics. He has served as supervisor and tax-collector of Cowanshannock township. He has held membership since 1830, in the United Presbyterian church, of which he has been an elder for fifty years. He married Mary Duncan, who bore him five children, four sons and one daughter. Of these sons, Ebenezer enlisted in 1864, in Co. K, 14th regiment, Pa. Cavalry, and died the following year in the hospital at Frederick City, and Samuel enlisted in 1861, in Co. E, 11th regiment, Pa. Reserves, and was killed in the battle of Gaines' Mill, 1862. John McLean, the oldest son, is a farmer and Dorcas, the daughter, is living with her brother J. D. Mrs. McLean died in 1842, and in 1843, Mr. McLean married for his second wife Rebecca McCausland, who died in 1849. To this second marriage were born three children: David M., Mary and W. H. McLean. In 1853, Mr. McLean married Margaret Gillespie, and to this third union have been born three children: Nancy J., Sarah E. and Mattie J. Mrs. Mary McLean was a daughter of Thomas Duncan (maternal grandfather), a native of eastern Pennsylvania, and a weaver by trade. He came to Armstrong county, where he engaged in farming. He married Dorcas Todd, who bore him seven children, three sons and four daughters.

James D. McLean was reared in Cowanshannock township, attended the common schools of that township, the normal school at Indiana and Rural valley academy, and taught two terms. In 1861 he enlisted in Co. A, 78th regiment, Pa. Vols., and served three years, two months and three days in the Army of the Cumberland. During the battle of Stone River he was taken prisoner and sent to Libby Prison, where he was held thirty-one days. After he was discharged he returned home and engaged in farming, but finding his strength insufficient for that occupation, embarked, in 1870, in the mercantile business at Atwood. He has a large and well-assorted stock of general merchandise, and, by fair and honest dealing, he has succeeded in building up a substantial trade.

May 27, 1865, he married Amanda McCausland, daughter of James McCausland, of Cowanshannock township. To their union have been born seven children: Sarah, married to Samuel Cuddy, a carpenter of Pittsburgh; Mary L., Samuel A., Porter D., at home; James M. died in 1873; Dorcas B. L., who died in 1876; and Reed A., who died in 1882.

Politically, Mr. McLean is a republican and is now serving as justice of the peace, school director and councilman of the borough of Atwood. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church, of which he has been a trustee for several years. He is a member of Anderson Post, No. 149, Grand Army of the Republic, of Rural Valley.