

JOHN FAIR, a prosperous merchant of Adrian, and a justice of the peace for East Franklin township, is a son of Peter and Sarah (Fair) Fair, and was born in Washington township, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, August 31, 1831. The Fair family is of German descent, and one of its members, John Fair (grandfather), was a native of Pennsylvania, and a farmer of Indiana county, where he died, near Black lick station. His son, Peter Fair (father), was born in Indiana county in 1796, and removed about 1817 to Armstrong county, where he settled in what is now Washington township. He engaged in farming as well as working at his trade of blacksmith. He was the first blacksmith in Washington township, was an active member of the Evangelical Lutheran church and died in 1878, when he had reached the advanced age of eighty-two years. He married Sarah Fair, who was born in Armstrong county in 1800, and is a member of the Lutheran church. She is now in the ninety-first year of her age, resides with the subject of this sketch and is very active for a woman of her advanced years.

John Fair at the age of two years became a permanent cripple, caused by severe sickness, so that all through life he has been compelled to walk with the help of a cane. He was reared on his father's farm in Washington township, and after attending the common schools of that township (not being able to work on the farm) engaged in teaching, which he followed for seventeen years. From 1865 to 1872 he was employed as a clerk with different mercantile firms in the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and in the latter-named year he came to Adrian, where he opened his present general mercantile establishment. Mr. Fair has made it an object to study the wants of his customers, and with good taste always selects a large stock of goods that never fail to please his many patrons in and around Adrian. In addition to his mercantile business he has an interest in a large farm near Adrian.

September 5, 1881, he married Emma D. Quigley, daughter of R. O. Quigley, of East Franklin township. To their union have been born three children: James F., Lawrence H. and Carrie B. For the past eight years Mrs. Fair has been postmistress at Adrian, where the post-office is located in her husband's store.

John Fair is a prominent republican, and in May, 1880, was elected justice of the peace of East Franklin township. He served his term in such a desirable manner to the public that he was re-elected in 1886. he is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he is a trustee.