

JOHN M. PETTIGREW, M.D., a skillful and successful physician of Rural Valley and eastern Armstrong county, is a son of Matthew and Jane (Windrem) Pettigrew, and was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, February 28, 1835. The Pettigrews are of Irish descent and John Pettigrew (grandfather) was a farmer in Ireland. His son, Matthew Pettigrew (father), was born in 1801 and settled, when a young man, in Plum creek township, Armstrong county, where he was engaged in farming until his death. He died in 1887, when he was in the eighty-sixth year of his age. He was a democrat in politics, and a member of the Presbyterian church and married Jane Windrem, a daughter of James Windrem, a democrat and Presbyterian of Plum Creek township, who was also a native of Ireland. Matthew Pettigrew had seven children, of whom the following five are living: Dr. John M., Sarah, widow of James Sturgeon, and a resident of Elderton; James W., residing on the homestead farm in Plum Creek township; Martha, wife of Josiah Shoemaker, a farmer of Kiskiminetas township; and Dr. Samuel H., a graduate of Jefferson Medical college and a practicing physician at DuBois, Pa.

John M. Pettigrew was reared on his father's farm, attended the common schools of his native township and Glade Run academy and read medicine with Dr. T. H. Allison, of Elderton. He entered the National Medical college of Washington, D. C., from which he was graduated in the class of 1860. He returned to his native State and after practicing at Elderton, Armstrong county, for some time, came to Rural Valley, where he has resided in the active practice of his profession ever since. He has a large and extensive practice which extends into the edge of Indiana county. He has prospered materially and now owns some seven hundred acres of well cultivated land in Cowanshannock and adjoining townships. He raises some very fine blooded horses and cattle, and full-blooded merino sheep, and makes a specialty of Jersey cattle and Dolphin and Hambletonian horses. He also has an interest in a lumber company.

On February 20, 1863, he married Cordelia R. McCurdy, daughter of John McCurdy, of Wayne township. They had nine children, three sons and six daughters: Delia J., married to B. F. Ambrose, a teacher and telegraph operator of Iowa; Matthew M., deceased; Charlotte M., a graduate of Edinborough Normal school, and a teacher at Rural Valley; John M., deceased; Minnie M., at home; Mary deceased; Blanche M., Martha M., and Bernard Clare at home.

In politics, Dr. Pettigrew is a democrat. He is no politician and, although accepting the office of school director to which he was elected, yet declined a nomination for the house of Representatives of Pennsylvania. He is a member of Kittanning Lodge, No 244, Free and Accepted Masons, at Kittanning, and Rural Valley Lodge, No. 1766, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Rural village.