

JOHN STEWART, one of the prosperous farmers and respected citizens of Valley township, was born in county Donegal, Ireland, in May, 1823, and is a son of James and Rebecca (Doak) Stewart. James Stewart left his native county of Donegal and came in 1827 to Philadelphia, where he remained but six months before removing to Westmoreland county, in which he resided for nearly three years. He then came to Armstrong county, where he settled in Mahoning township and was engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1843, when in the seventieth year of his age. He was industrious man and a consistent member of the Presbyterian church. He married Rebecca Doak, who was like himself a native of county Donegal, and a member of the Presbyterian church. She was born in 1785 and died in 1863. When lacking but two years of being an octogenarian. They were a well-respected couple in the community in which they resided, and had a family of four sons and one daughter.

John Stewart was reared from seven years of age on his father's farm in Mahoning township, where he received a practical common business education in the country schools of that day. Upon attaining his majority he engaged in farming, which he has pursued profitably ever since. Mr. Stewart owns two good farms in Valley township, and his home farm, which he bought in 1846 and on which he resided since 1852, containing one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved and tillable land. He also erected his comfortable residence and the convenient barn and numerous out-buildings which are on his home farm.

On December 9, 1852, Mr. Stewart married Elizabeth Harris, daughter of Joseph Harris, a native of Ireland. To Mr. and Mrs. Stewart have been born seven children; Rebecca Ann, born April 8, 1854, died July 8, 1859; Elizabeth J., born October 18, 1856, died June 8, 1878; Margaret A., Mary T., who was a teacher in the Kittanning schools for three years and married Hugh McIsaac, Indiana county, and Emma F.A., Anabel B. and Rebecca.

John Stewart is neutral in politics and a member and elder of the Reformed Presbyterian church. He is one of the substantial and industrious farmers of this prosperous township.