

JOHN T. KIRKPATRICK, one of the oldest merchants in the county and postmaster of Barnard's ever since its establishment as a post-office in 1861, is a son of David and Mary (Thompson) Kirkpatrick and was born near Freeport, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, in August, 1823. The Kirkpatricks are Scotch-Irish. James Kirkpatrick (grandfather) was born in Cumberland county, from whence he moved in early life to Westmoreland county, where he lived a few years. In 1798 he located in Plum Creek township (now Cowanshannock). When living on Cherry run, near Elderton, his house was attacked by Indians and two of its inmates were killed, while a young child was wounded, but its mother made her escape with it to Loyalhanna, Westmoreland county, where it died. James Kirkpatrick was a farmer by occupation, a whig in politics and an active member and elder of the first Presbyterian church organized at Glade run, near Dayton. He married Mary Larimer and to their union were born eight children, four sons and four daughters. One of these sons, James, Jr., served in the war of 1812 and another son, David Kirkpatrick (father), was born in 1778, in Westmoreland county. He came to Plum Creek township, Armstrong county, with his father, and engaged in farming. He died in 1844, when he was in the sixty-seventh year of his age. He was a whig in politics, a member of the Presbyterian church, and married for his first wife Elizabeth Varns, by whom he had two children: William and James. Mrs. Kirkpatrick died and Mr. Kirkpatrick married Mary Thompson, a daughter of John and Jane (Riddle) Thompson. To this second union were born eight children, of whom one, Robert B., enlisted in 1861, in the 78th regiment, Pa. Vol. Infantry, and served three years. Mrs. Mary Kirkpatrick's father, John Thompson, was a native of Allegheny county, to which his father had come from Ireland. John Thompson was a farmer and a whig and married Jane Riddle, by whom he had three children. His wife died and he married for his second wife a Miss Breckenridge, who bore him eight children, three sons and five daughters.

John T. Kirkpatrick was reared on a farm and received his education in the subscription schools of his day. He commenced life as a clerk at Smicksburg, but afterward went to Kittanning and entered the employ of a merchant, with whom he remained until his father's death, in 1844. He then opened a general mercantile store at Barnard's, where he has continued in that line of business ever since. He has a heavy stock of merchandise, enjoys a good trade from a large section of country and was appointed postmaster of Barnard's, when that post-office was established in 1861. In addition to his mercantile business, Mr. Kirkpatrick is engaged, to some extent, in farming in Cowanshannock township, where he owns one hundred and six acres of land.

He married Sarah McGaughey, daughter of John McGaughey, of Wayne township. To their union has been born one child, John M.

John T. Kirkpatrick is a member of Glade Run Presbyterian church and a republican in political opinion. Half a century of experience as a clerk and a merchant has well qualified Mr. Kirkpatrick for the mercantile business, in which he has always been honest and honorable.