

MARTIN LUTHERN WANAMAKER, the proprietor of the gas fitters' supply store at Leechburg, is a son of John and Margaret (Wegley) Wanamaker, and was born at Leechburg, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, February 12, 1849. his great-grandfather, Wanamker, was born in Germany, but emigrated from the Fatherland to Westmoreland county, where he afterwards died. His son, Henry Wanamaker (grandfather), was born in 1792, and in 1813 removed to Allegheny township his county, and bought a farm on which he remained until his death. He was a quiet, industrious farmer and was one of the elders of Zion Evangelical Lutheran church when it was organized. He married Susannah Silves, and died August 7, 1860, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. Mrs. Wanamker was born in 1794, and died January 14, 1880, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. They had ten children: John, Elizabeth, Annie, Cyrus, James, Henry, Joseph, George, Esther and caroline. The eldest son, John Wanamaker (father), was born on his father's farm, about four miles west of Leechburg, February 22, 1812, and during his youth worked on the farm. He learned the trade of cabinet-maker and about 1840 engaged in the furniture and undertaking business at Leechburg. In 1850 he sold his furniture establishment and embarked in the general mercantile business, which he followed for some time. He then became proprietor of a drug store, which he conducted for eight or ten years. In 1870 he formed a partnership with his son, M. L. Wanamaker, and engaged in the furniture business. Nine years later he retired from the business and for the last ten years has lived a retired life. Some twelve years ago he was bitten by a dog and has suffered considerably from the bite, which has never healed. He is a member of the general council of the Evangelical Lutheran church, and is devoted to the interest of the Democratic party. On May 31, 1838, he married Margaret Wegley, who is a daughter of John and Catherine (Beck) Wegley, and was born January 25, 1814, in Burrell township, of which her parents were early settlers. To Mr. and Mrs. Wanamaker have been born seven children: Mary Ann, born July 28, 1839, and died May 11, 1863; James, born June 21, 1841, and died the same year; Sarah, born July 2, 1842, and died the same year; Eliza, born June 23, 1844, and married to Henry Byrer, of Shelby, Ohio; Emma, born October 21, 1847, wife of Levi Hill; Martin Luther, and Elizabeth, born October 4, 1851, and wife of Joseph Bowers, of Leechburg, now dealing in oil in Venango county.

Martin L. Wanamaker attended the public schools of Leechburg, and then engaged with his father in the furniture business. From 1877 to 1879 he conducted a photographic gallery in connection with his furniture establishment, In 1879 he and his father disposed of the furniture store, and he engaged in the confectionery business, on Market street. On January 1, 1889, he opened a general gas fitters' supply store, and has since been engaged in gas fitting. He has secured a large patronage and is constantly increasing his trade.

February 4, 1880, he united in marriage with Sarah Jane Artman, daughter of John Artman, of Armstrong county. Mr. and Mrs. Wanamaker have two children: Emma Irene and Efa Thirza.

Originally Mr. Wanamker was a democrat, but joined the Republican party in 1884, casting his first republican vote for James G. Blaine. He is a good business man and fine mechanic, being fully up on the times in everything connected with his present line of business.