

OLIVER TINSMAN, proprietor of the Tinsman machine shops of Parker City, and thorough-going and active business man, is a veteran of the late war, during which he served as a soldier from Pennsylvania and afterwards from New Jersey. He was born at Rigglesville, New Jersey, January 10, 1843, and is a son of William and Abigail (Fosbenner) Tinsman. The American branch of the old and substantial Tinsman family of Holland, that traces its ancestry back into the early history of that country, was founded by a Tinsman, who came from Amsterdam and settled in New Jersey some time before the Revolutionary war. One of his sons was Peter Tinsman, the grandfather of Oliver Tinsman, and who was engaged in farming lumbering in New Jersey until his death. He married and reared a family and one of his sons was William Tinsman (father), who was a life-long resident of New Jersey. Like his father before him he turned his entire attention to farming and lumbering. He was a democrat in political opinion and a Lutheran in church membership and died in 1878. He married Abigail Fosbenner, who was a daughter of Mr. Fosbenner, of Bucks county, Pa. She was a member of the Lutheran church and died at her home in New Jersey, in 1879.

Oliver Tinsman was reared on his father's farm and attended the public schools of New Jersey. At sixteen years of age he commenced to learn the trade of machinist, but in 1862 left the shop to enlist in Co. C, 37th regiment, Pa. Vols., for a term of ninety days. He served this time and re-enlisted in 1863 in the 3d regiment, New Jersey Cavalry, for a term of three years, and served until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged in Trenton, New Jersey, August 5, 1865. He was on Gen. Burnside's staff at the Wilderness fights, Spotsylvania Court-house, Cold Harbor and the siege of Petersburg. At Bridgewater he was captured by the Confederates, but in a few minutes was re-captured by his own company. At the close of the war he returned home and finished his trade of machinist. He then (1870) came to the oil region of Pennsylvania, where he worked at his trade until 1876, when he came to Parker City and established his present machine shops. He is well prepared to do all kinds of work, and makes a specialty of repairing. He gives personal supervision to all work done in his establishment and has secured a large trade. He is an experienced and skilled workman, an enterprising and successful business man and a peaceable and respected citizen.

Oliver Tinsman, in 1876, united in marriage with Olive Sage, daughter of James Sage, of Venango county.

In politics Mr. Tinsman is a republican and has been serving for some time as a member of the borough council. He is a prominent Odd Fellow, and holds membership in Parker Lodge, No. 761 and is a member of the encampment branch of that order. He has some valuable property in Parker City, where he owns a half-interest in the water-works. He also owns a half-interest in the Apollo water-works. He has also been engaged, at different times, in the oil business and met with very good success. He is energetic and active in every enterprise in which he engages.