

A. J. WEIR ROBINSON, a farmer and stock raiser of Conemaugh township, was born in that township Aug. 14, 1856, son of James w. Robinson.

John Robinson, his grandfather, married Mary Weir as his first wife, and second Jane Marshall. Of the first union three sons were born: Robert W., who married Jane Ritchey, of Indianapolis, Ind.; Adam, who married Mary Foster, and lived in Westmoreland county, where he followed farming; and James W. of the second union, there were four sons and five daughters, as follows: John M., William M., Samuel S., Thomas W., Jennie S., Rachel, Jane, Eliza M., and Maria W.

James W. Robinson, father of A. J. Weir Robinson, was born Feb. 21, 1803, and died Feb. 4, 1865. He married Rebecca Weir, of Pigeon Creek, Washington Co., Pa., who was born 1813 and died in 1895, and both are buried in Edgewood cemetery, at Saltsburg. They were the parents of six children: Sarah M., born Oct. 30, 1834, died unmarried; Rebecca J., born Sept. 25, 1836, married Rev. W. W. Woodend, D.D., a Presbyterian minister, and is deceased; Martha E., born June 30, 1839, married Rev. S. J. Berlin, a Lutheran preacher, and both are deceased; William Thomas, born April 27, 1841, served in the Union army during the Civil war, having enlisted in 1863, and died in 1865; Etta M., born Sept. 13, 1849, died unmarried; A. J. Weir is mentioned at length below.

James W. Robinson was reared on his father's homestead in Conemaugh township, and there spent his useful life. In time he became the owner of 200 acres of fertile land, and having learned agriculture from the initial steps pursued that calling all his life with very satisfactory results, branching out until he became an extensive stockman, raising cattle and horses that were recognized as the best in this part of the State, all of blooded stock. In 1833 he erected a substantial and comfortable residence, now the property of his son A. J. Weir Robison, and remodeled it in 1859. In addition he put up barns and other outbuildings to correspond, and took a price in keeping his premises in excellent order. Although he died before many modern inventions came upon the market, he took advantage of the assistance offered by those of his day, and his farm was a model for his neighbors.

Early recognizing the importance and necessity of good roads, he advocated improving the public highways, and after the office was created was one of the first men to serve as road supervisor. While always active in township affairs he did not desire office, but preferred to use his influence in his private capacity. Generous and consistent as a member of the Presbyterian Church, his devotion was regarded by his election as elder, but he declined the honor, declaring he felt that with the numerous duties resting upon him as a farmer and business man he could not do justice to the office. During the years of his mature life, he kept the interests of Conemaugh township close to his heart and when he died this locality lost one of its best and most representative citizens. Devoted to his home and family he found his pleasures in the circle of his relatives, and was deeply mourned when death claimed him.

A. J. Weir Robinson, son of James W. Robinson, was brought up in his native township, and early taught the habits of industry and economical management that have aided him in his more than ordinarily successful career.

During his boyhood he attended the Robinson district school, No. 1, and later for two terms went to the old Saltsburg academy. Being only nine years old when he lost his father, he owes his careful training to his good mother. He assisted with the work at home until seventeen years of age, and then, although young, for the responsibilities, took charge of the farm, then consisting of 200 acres, and has since continued to carry on his agricultural interests, although at times he has branched out in other directions. His farm is one of the finest in Conemaugh township, and he devotes it to general farming and stock raising, conducting his operations according to advanced methods, for he is a firm believer in scientific agriculture. His property is well supplied with modern machinery and he takes advantage of governmental experiments to aid him in his work. His residence is the one built by his father in 1833, and rebuilt in 1859, and Mr. Robinson has added much to its original equipment in the way of comforts, having a very desirable home. His barns are thoroughly up-to-date in every respect, and it would be difficult to find any agriculturist of Indiana county who has a better equipment all through than Mr. Robinson.

In 1898 Mr. Robinson built a butcher shop near his residence and went into the wholesale and retail meat business which he carried on until the spring of 1912, when he retired. At one time he operated several butcher wagons, which carried meat about the township. Mr. Robinson drilled a well one hundred feet deep, and pumps this bountiful supply by the Kewanee system to his house, barns and outbuildings. When the Eldersridge and West Lebanon Telephone Company was organized he was one of its promoters and founders, and carries a large amount of its stock. The Saltsburg Presbyterian Church has in him a warm supporter, and for the last twenty-eight years he has been one of its trustees, and for eight years has been an elder. From 1883 to 1898 he rendered valuable service as a school director, has been township assessor for the past ten years, and like his father has always been deeply interested in the welfare of the township and the betterment of its conditions.

On Feb. 16, 1882, Mr. Robinson married Eva L. Guthrie, daughter of William and Eliza M. (Robinson) Guthrie, of Dayton, Armstrong Co., Pa. One daughter has been born of this union, Ella Maud, born Feb. 16, 1883, who is at home, a most charming young lady. Mrs. Robinson presides over her home delightfully, and she and her daughter entertain hospitably, having drawn about them a congenial circle.