

ANDREW FOSTER, a farmer of North Mahoning township, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, July 26, 1842, a son of William and Elizabeth (Means) Foster.

William Foster was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, as was his wife, and both died there. They were farming people, and their family consisted of six children, as follows: Andrew; John, who came to America in 1867, locating at Pittsburg, where he died; Mary Ann, who is the widow of Andrew Foster of East End, Pittsburg, Pa.; Fannie, unmarried, who is still in County Tyrone, Ireland; Ellen, who married Matthew Dinsmore, and lives on the family farm in Ireland; and William, who located in Canada and there died.

Andrew Foster attended the common schools of Ireland and lived at home until 1867, when he and his sister Mary Ann came to America, locating at Pittsburg. When he arrived in that city he found various industries suffering from the effects of a financial panic, so he went to work on a small farm in the vicinity. As soon as business picked up a little he obtained employment with the Citizens' Passenger Railroad Company of Pittsburg, as hostler, and was promoted until he became an inspector. Later he was transferred to a branch road and had charge of the stable. He was with this company until its consolidation with the Philadelphia Company. Following that event, in March, 1898, Mr. Foster bought his present farm in North Mahoning township, known as the old Dilts place, containing 118 acres all in a state of improvement. He has one of the best farms in Indiana county, and raises wheat, oats, corn, hay and potatoes.

Mr. Foster was married at Pittsburg, Pa., to Jane Crawford, of County Tyrone, Ireland, who died at Pittsburg. She had three children. William John, who was a farmer, died when twenty-four years old; Ellen is at home; Andrew passed away at the age of nine years, in Pittsburg. The second married of Mr. Foster was to Mrs. Elizabeth Given, daughter of Francis Elkin and widow of John William Given, of County Tyrone, Ireland, who died at Pittsburg, Pa. By her first marriage Mrs. Foster had one daughter, Martha, who married Harry Elkin. Mr. and Mrs. Foster belong to the Methodist Church of Georgeville, Pa., and are active in its good work. He is a Republican, but not an office seeker.

Coming to America a poor boy, Mr. Foster has worked his way up, and is now one of the substantial agriculturists of his section of Indiana county. Had he not possessed innate characteristics that made for success he would not have been able to progress as he did, but his natural ability, combined with hard work and close economy, have brought about desirable results.