

CHESTER MUNSON LINGLE, general manager of the Graceton Coke Company, of Graceton, Pa., and president of the Homer City National Bank, is a native of central Pennsylvania, having been born at Osceola Mills, Clearfield county, July 11, 1874, son of L. G. and Gertrude A. (Munson) Lingle.

The father of Mr. Lingle, who died in 1886, was a native of Center county, and became a well-known mining engineer and coal operator. He served as a soldier during the Civil war. He married Gertrude A. Munson, daughter of Chester Munson, and a descendant of one of the oldest and best-known families of Hartford, Conn.; her great-grand-father, Almond Munson, served as a soldier during the Revolutionary war.

The boyhood days of Chester M. Lingle were spent at Philipsburg, where he attended the graded and high schools. The death of his father occurred when he was but twelve years of age. During his vacations, in the summer months, when the other lads of his acquaintance were engaged in recreation, young Lingle worked as a trapper in the coal mines, following this occupation for two seasons. Desiring to follow the vocation of his father he then started to study mining engineering under A. V. Hoyt, who was a well-known mining engineer at Philipsburg, and continued with that gentleman until 1899, when he accepted a position with the American Coke Company, of Fayette county. He rose to the position of chief engineer with that concern, but in 1901 left to become chief engineer of the Sharon Coke Company, at Ronco, Fayette county, and two years later took the position of chief engineer with the Briar Hill Coke Company, also of Fayette county. At the above named places plants were constructed and various extensive improvements made under his supervision. In 1904 he accepted the position of superintendent of the Graceton Coke Company, of Graceton, Indiana county, and in 1907 was made general manager of the concern, succeeding Col. Everhart Berier. During his administration of affairs the growth and development of the town and plant have been marked. A number of new houses have been erected, in addition to a fine large general store and the Methodist Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches, plant No. 2 has been constructed and the school enlarged, and the population has increased twenty-five per cent. The town now has over 160 homes, and over 250 hands, of different nationalities, are employed in the company's plant. Mr. Lingle takes a deep and active interest in the growth and prosperity of the town and the welfare of its people, is a staunch advocate of education, and as such is serving as school director, and as a firm believer in the worth of good roads is acting as supervisor of Center township. In 1904 he was appointed postmaster at Graceton, under President Roosevelt's administration, and still continues to act in that capacity. In political views he is a staunch Republican. Fraternally he is connected with Moshannon Lodge, No. 391, F. & A. M., and Clearfield Chapter, R. A. M., and also holds membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, the Pennsylvania department of the Sons of Veterans, the American Institution of Mining Engineers, the Cosmopolitan Club of Indiana, Pa., and the Pittsburg Athletic Association. He was one of the organizers and is president of the Indiana County Automobile Club. He was one of the organizers and one of the first directors of the Homer City National Bank, of which he served as vice-president for two years; in June, 1911, he was elected its president,

succeeded himself in that office in January, 1912, and has continued to hold this position of great trust and responsibility to the present time, to the general satisfaction of officials and depositors. Mr. Lingle in religion is connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, which he has served as a member of the board of trustees, and in all circles of activity in Center township is a man who has the respect and esteem of those with whom he comes in contact. His duties in the various relations of life are numerous and onerous, leaving him little time for recreation, but when he feels that he has earned a rest he takes a vacation and goes on a hunting and fishing trip-, being very fond of both sports.

In October, 1902, Mr. Lingle was married in Fayette county, Pa., to Loretta P. Neff, daughter of Maj. Gen. W. Neff, M.D., and three children have been born to this union, namely: Loretta Neff, Gertrude Munson and Carolyn.