

EDWARD NIXON, a lifelong resident of Indiana, Indiana county, was the second male child born at that place, where his father settled in the early part of the last century. He was a relative of Col. John Nixon, who first read the Declaration of Independence to the people of Philadelphia on July 8, 1776.

The Nixon family is of Irish extraction, Mr. Nixon's grandfather, Edward Nixon, having been born in Ireland, where he married a Miss Bracken and reared a family.

Robert Nixon, son Edward, above, was born in 1780 in County Donegal, Ireland, and came to this country when twelve years old with his parents, the family settling at Baking Ridge, N. J. He came to the vicinity of Carlisle, pa., in 1794, but removed the next year to Washington county, and then in 1798 to Newport, on Blacklick creek, Indiana county, where he was engaged as a clerk in the store for several years with his second cousin, Richard Nixon. In 1803 he purchased some of the first lots sold at Indiana, and erected a story and a half hewed log house on the corner of Philadelphia street and carpenter's alley, on the site of the present Savings & Trust building. He began business as a merchant in the upper part of this house, the store room being reached by a pair of outside stairs, and from this modest start became a man of affairs in the town, where he spent the remainder of his life. In 1812 he removed his store to larger quarters, and in 1832 opened the celebrated "Nixon Hotel," on what is now the site of Godfrey Marshall's residence, and was proprietor of same for several years. He died at Indiana in 1850, at the age of seventy years. Mr. Nixon was married in New Jersey to Mrs. Mary (Sutton) Ayers, daughter of Peter Sutton, Jr., and she died in 1851, at the age of seventy. They were originally members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, later joining the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their children were: Edward; George, who died in Indiana; James, who died at Broad Top, Pa.; Mary, wife of Rev. Robert White, an M. E. minister; and Robert.

Edward Nixon, son of Robert and Mary (Sutton) Nixon, was born Feb. 25, 1808, at Indiana, and received his education there, in the common schools. He became an excellent mathematician and one of the finest penmen in the State. When a boy he began clerking in the store conducted by his father, whom he also assisted in the work of conducting the "Nixon Hotel," and he early gave evidence of the business ability which won him such a substantial place among the successful men of the borough. His first business venture was in partnership with John Thompson. They had a small country store at Sharp's mill, in this county, and also operated Sharp's mill during that time, doing business there for four years, after which Mr. Nixon returned to Indiana and opened a store in what is now the Hassinger bakery. In 1843-44 he built a home at No. 34 North Sixth street, a very substantial structure of brick; part of the foundation was made of stone from the old jail, and the old jail bolt is still used on the cellar door. The house being so large Mrs. Nixon suggested that he use the south side for his store, which he did, carrying on mercantile business there until 1861, when he gave it up because of impaired health. He then turned the store quarters into law offices, Judge Clark having an office there from 1874 until he was elected to the Supreme bench. When Mr. Nixon's daughter, Miss Fanny W Nixon, was appointed postmistress of Indiana on March 17, 1886, she kept the office in the

old store room of the house. Mr. Nixon was more or less of an invalid from the time of his retirement, in 1861, until his death, which occurred at his home June 2, 1889. His remains were interred in Oakland cemetery. Few citizens of the borough were held in higher esteem. He was honored as one of the most progressive and intelligent members of the community, and left a reputation for integrity and real worth of which his family may well be proud. For many years he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but some years prior to his death he and his wife joined the Protestant Episcopal Church. In political opinion he was a lifelong Democrat.

On July 3, 1843, Mr. Nixon was married to Phebe Birg Keely, who was born in 1818 at Mifflin, Mifflin Co., Pa., daughter of Henry Keely, and died in 1906, at the advanced age eighty-eight years. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Nixon: Robert Henry, who died in 1901, married Lizzie Haws, of Johnstown, Pa., and she and their three children were drowned in the great flood there in 1889; he was at one time a clerk for the Cambria Iron Company and later a clerk in the post office at Indiana. Fanny W., who lived at the old home, died in a hospital at New York City, Feb. 20, 1913, and is buried in Oakland cemetery, at Indiana. Emma Theresa died May 31, 1890, unmarried. Mary Belle married Philip A. Williams and (second) Frank T. McAvoy, of Duke Center, Pa., who is now doing business as a merchant. Virginia Burye is the wife of John McCune, of Johnstown, Pa. Of these, Fanny W. Nixon received an excellent education in public and select schools at Indiana, and acted as clerk in Judge Clark's law office for eight years. She was commissioned postmaster of Indiana for four years, under President Cleveland's first administration, and in that incumbency made a record as having one of the best conducted and most systemically managed offices in Pennsylvania.