

GEORGE C. DICKIE, late of the borough of Indiana, Indiana county, was for a number of years before his death engaged in the leasing and selling of coal lands in this vicinity, and he was one of the most influential men in the development of the coal industry in his section of the State. It was due perhaps more to his efforts than to those of any other man that the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg railroad was built in Indiana, making possible the opening up of large tracts of coal land.

Mr. Dickie was born June 12, 1810, four miles south of the borough of Indiana, in Indiana county, Pa., son of George and Jane (Dickson) Dickie. His grandfather, William H. Dickie, the founder of the Dickie family in this region, was of Scotch-Irish extraction. Coming to Indiana county at an early period, he located in Center township, on a farm about four miles from Indiana. There he continued to engage in farming for a number of years, prospering, and also followed blacksmithing. Later he removed to Jacksonville, Indiana county, where he remained several years, and on his return to Center township lived on the farm which he subsequently sold to his son-in-law, Jacob Kauffman. He passed the remainder of his life in that township, spending his declining years with his son George, at whose home he died, at the age of eighty-two years, eight days. Mr. Dickie was a Whig in political sentiment but not particularly active in party affairs. He served as school director, however, after the establishment of the public schools, and was a man of considerable influence in his locality. A member of the M. E. Church, he served many years as classleader and was also chorister for a long period. In fact he was widely known in the latter connection in this region, having taught singing for many years.

Mr. Dickie married Jane Allison, a native of Center township, daughter of Andrew and Sally (Barr) Allison, the former of whom served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war under General Washington. The Allison family is an old and highly respected family in Indiana county. Mrs. Dickie died at the home of her son-in-law, Jacob Kauffman, and was buried in Oakland cemetery, at Indiana, beside her husband. Ten children were born to this couple: George is mentioned below; Hannah married Thomas B. Allison, of Marchand, Indiana county, who served as associate judge; Jane married Rev. J. Gordon, a Minister of the M. E. Church; Ebenezer died at Rock Island, Ill.; Nancy married James Ayers, of Marion Center, Pa.; John died in Ohio; Mary (Polly) married Samuel Ray, of Crete, this county; Lavina married Jacob Kauffman; Elizabeth married John McMullen, of Center township, and later removed to Illinois; Ursula Toledo married John F. Henderson, and died in Illinois.

George Dickie, eldest son of William H. Dickie, was born Sept. 27, 1809, on the farm in Center township, and obtained his education at the subscription school held in a near-by log house. He grew up on the farm and from his earliest boyhood was familiar with agricultural work, which he followed all his life, and in which he became very prosperous. He acquired over six hundred acres of land. He built a substantial brick house to replace the first one of logs, and made many other improvements on his property, which became quite valuable under his intelligent and energetic management. In addition to general farming he engaged somewhat extensively in stock raising, and drove to the eastern

markets for many years. He made a specialty of the raising of fine sheep, his large acreage enabling him to keep great numbers. He died March 5, 1901, in his ninety-second year, after a busy and useful career, and was buried in Oakland cemetery. He was a life-long member of the M. E. Church at Homer City, and served as steward.

On May 14, 1835, Mr. Dickie married Jane Dickson, and they had a married life of over half a century, her death occurring Dec. 24, 1885. She, too, is buried in Oakland cemetery. They had a family of five children: William H., who is a farmer of Blacklick township, this county; Joseph Dickson; Nancy H., widow of Capt. George H. Ogden, of Homer City; Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of Frank Broski; and George C. Mrs. Dickie was a member of the M. E. Church.

George C. Dickie obtained his early education in the Lowery school in Indiana county, later in the winter of 1870-71 attending Eldersridge Academy and the Millersville State normal school, at Millersville, Lancaster county, Pa. After leaving school he worked at farming, continuing to follow that occupation principally until 1901, from which time until his death he was interested in the coal industry. He was quite successful in leasing and selling coal lands in Indiana county, handling large tracts, and as previously stated was mainly instrumental in having the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg road built to the borough of Indiana. He became one of the prominent factors in industrial development of the county. He continued his farming operations in addition to his other business interests, which became numerous, for he was a stockholder in the Indiana Trust Company, the Indiana Woolen Mills, and other local enterprises. His progressive spirit and fearlessness in launching new projects made him a live figure in the business world. He died Feb. 24, 1912

On Nov. 26, 1874, Mr. Dickie married Margaret Ann Johnston, daughter of George W. and Isabella (Speedy) Johnston, of Indiana county, and to them were born three children: Clark, D.D.S., now of Vandergrift, pa., married Flora Laufman, and they have one child, Clark C.; Laura is the wife of Dr. W. h. Nix and has one child; Bell is the wife of Glen M. Lee, principal of the Vandergrift schools, and they have one child, Gladys C. Mrs. Dickie is a member of the M. E. Church, to which her husband also belongs.