

HARRY CARSON, a well-known farmer of White township, Indiana county, was born in Center township May 5, 1869, son of Robert C. and Elizabeth H. (Hamill) Carson, and grandson of William Carson.

William Carson, the grandfather, was born probably in Perry county, Pa., and from there in 1834 came to Indiana county, in company with his brothers and sisters John, Alexander, Susan and Jane. William Carson engaged in farming until overtaken by blindness, a number of years before his death. He married Letitia Work, and both died in Center township and were buried at Bethel Church. They were members of the Presbyterian Church. They had the following children: William; Alexander; James; Mary, wife of John Robbins, of White township; Rose, wife of Edward Harbinson; John, who died in 1911, aged eighty-nine years; Letitia, who died in 1910; Susan, widow of Thomas Smith, residing at Chambersville; Robert C.; and Thomas, who was killed at the battle of Gaines's Mills during the Civil war. Four of them were carpenters and builders.

Robert C. Carson was born in Center township, Indiana county, in 1835. When he grew to manhood he learned carpentry and afterward followed contracting and building a number of years, erecting some of the best residences in Center township, as well as barns, schoolhouses and other structures, and was the builder of the first house for residential purposes at the Graceton Coke Works. He was a veteran of the Civil war, serving out a first enlistment in Company E, 177<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, under Capt. Lewis M. Brumell, from Oct. 16, 1862, to Aug. 5, 1863. On March 17, 1865, he reenlisted under Capt. Joseph M. Dougherty, in the 103d Pennsylvania Infantry, and served as a lieutenant until the close of hostilities. During these years of danger and hardship his commands were stationed in Virginia and North Carolina, and in the swamps of these States he contracted fever and ague, now generally attributed to miasma, which made such inroads on his naturally strong constitution that he never fully regained his health. Being, however, a man of strong will and remarkable energy, he continued active in business until his death. During the later years of his life, while following his trade, he lived on his farm in Center township, near Homer City, having improved his property with handsome and substantial buildings. He died April 18, 1893, at the age of fifty-seven years, and was buried in Greenwood cemetery, at Indiana. He was a member of the United Presbyterian Church of Homer city, in which he was an elder, and also served as superintendent of the Sunday school. Interested as he always was in general education, he consented to serve for a long period as school director, and held other local offices. Although naturally of a retiring nature he made many friends through his recognition of the rights of others and a due regard for their comfort and welfare. He married Elizabeth H. Hamill, who was born in Center township, a daughter of Robert and Jane (Trimble) Hamill, her birth occurring in 1840. She was reared in a Christian home, her parents being members of the United Presbyterian Church. To Robert C. and Elizabeth H. Carson four children were born, as follows: Jennie, who became the wife of William S. Huntley, of Youngwood, Westmoreland county; Harry; Myrtle A., who married J. M. Davis, of White township; and Porter H., who died in childhood.

Harry Carson was educated in the public schools of Center township and from a comparatively early age worked on the farm and for his father at the carpenter's trade. He remained on the homestead until 1901, when he came to White township, where he purchased the Robbins farm of ninety-one acres, to which he has made additions until now he owns and operates a tract of 199 acres, carrying on general farming and dairying, taking advantage of all modern discoveries relating to agricultural activities and thereby making very satisfactory progress.

On Sept. 3, 1897, Mr. Carson was married to Mrs. S. Elizabeth (Miller) Long, daughter of John Irwin and Mary (Keener) Miller, of Blacklick township, and widow of George S. Long. Mrs. Carson was born in Conemaugh township, later moving to Blacklick township, where she lived till her marriage to Mr. Carson. She was well educated, attending the public schools of Indiana county and the State normal school, and teaching school for some years before her first marriage, to which one son was born, J. Irwin Long. After his graduation from the public schools he attended the Indiana State normal school, and engaged in teaching, first in Indiana county and later in the family Hood River valley, Oregon, where he spent a year. On returning from the far West he finished his course at the Indiana State normal, graduating in the class of 1911. He bought a farm in White township (after coming back East), a tract of 109 acres, which is situated in sight of his parents' farm, on which he resides, but has not entirely given up teaching school. To Mr. and Mrs. Carson three sons have been born: Robert Miller, Harry Carlyle and Paul E., all students. The eldest made a record in passing the State public school examination at the age of thirteen years.

Mr. Carson has always taken a deep interest in the public school system and at the age of twenty-four years became a school director in Center township, and continued as such for seven years, when he resigned in order to locate in White township, where he served in a similar capacity for eight years and has been president and also secretary of the board in both townships. He belongs to the Progressive Republican party in politics, being an unusually broad-minded, well-informed man. At the age of twenty-five years he was elected an elder in the Homer City United Presbyterian Church and served as such until he moved into White township, and at present is serving as an elder of the First United Presbyterian Church of Indiana, another member of the board being Prof. J. T. Stewart, the well-known educator and historian of Indiana.