

HUGH CRAIG ENGLISH is very well known in various connections to his fellow citizens of Homer City, Indiana county. He has been honored with election to important offices in the borough, and in every capacity has discharged his duties efficiently and intelligently. He was born in Pine township, Allegheny >Co., Pa., Dec. 8, 1851, son of John English, who came to America with his father and the rest of the family in the year 1825, from County Down, Ireland. They located first at Philadelphia. Several relatives accompanied them, all the others going farther west and some locating at Pittsburg, Pa. These relatives later induced John English and his father's family to join them at Pittsburg, and they were soon settled in Pine township, Allegheny county.

John English was sixteen years old when he came with his father to America. He had learned the weaver's trade in Ireland, but gave it up after a time and became a baker, being thus employed for some time after his arrival in Philadelphia, until obliged to abandon the work because of ill health. His brothers Samuel and Andrew became residents of Pittsburg, and they obtained a position for him in that city as watchman when he came to western Pennsylvania. About that time Pittsburg was overrun with thieves, and Mr. English showed great tact and skill as a detective, finally succeeding in locating and arresting the notorious gang that was causing the trouble and breaking up and destroying the organization which had terrorized the city. After several years' work as watchman he decided to quit this hazardous occupation, and upon the advice of his brothers Samuel and Andrew bought a farm of 220 acres in Pine township, Allegheny county, near where they were located. There he spent the remainder of his long life, passing away in 1894, at the advanced age of eighty-five years, and was buried in Mount Pleasant cemetery near his home. In his prime he was noted for his great strength and fine physique. He took an active part in the administration of public affairs in the township where he settled, holding office for a number of years, as school director, collector, election officer, etc., and was held in high esteem by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. In politics he was originally a Whig, later a Republican. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Before leaving Philadelphia Mr. English married Eliza Bowers, whose father and grandfather came from Germany, the latter serving as a general in the War of 1812. Mrs. English died in 1899, at the age of eighty years, and was buried beside her husband in Mount Pleasant cemetery, in Pine township. Twelve children were born to this honored couple: One died in infancy; Andrew lives in Pine township, Alleghany county; Alexander lives on the North Side, in Pittsburg, Pa.; Elizabeth married Joseph Quail, of Belleview, Pa.; John is a farmer in Butler county, Pa.; Samuel, of Boston, Mass., is a noted horseman; Hugh Craig is mentioned below; Mary married Cyrus Rea, and lived in Butler county, Pa.; James lives at East Liverpool, Ohio; Margaret died when nine years old; Isabelle married A. C. Irwin, of Mars, Pa.; Matilda, is the wife of Harry Dillon, of Pittsburg (North Side).

Hugh Craig English received his education in the common schools. When eighteen years old he began business for himself at Five Points, Allegheny county, buying and selling provisions, and marketing, in Pittsburg. He was very

successful in this line, in which he continued for eleven years, but he decided to well and seek a new location, in the spring of 1880 coming to Indiana county. His first home here was at Cokeville, where he remained one year, the following spring moving to Homer City. For ten years he followed the produce business, and for a time was engaged in contracting, building railroad and telephone lines in Pennsylvania and adjoining States, but had to give up this work in 1897 because of poor health. A short time afterward he commenced farming buying the place in Center township where he has since lived, and where until recently he was actively engaged in general farming and stock raising. He has erected fine buildings on this property, which is kept up in the systematic manner typical of the way in which Mr. English looks after all his interests. He has been prominently associated with the local government, having been a member of the council and served as president of that body. He has served a number of times on the election board of Homer City, and is a Republican in political connection. He belongs to the Homer City M. E. Church, in which he is a prominent worker, having been a trustee for twenty years. His helpful activity in every movement in which he is interested, and his broad public spirit, make him a citizen of the highest worth.

On May 28, 1874, Mr. English married Elizabeth Rodgers, daughter of William and Sarah J. (McCord) Rodgers, of Pine township, Allegheny county, and the following children have been born to them: William, a resident of Homer City, who married May Gerhart; Minnie, deceased, who was the wife of Calvin Gerhard, of Blacklick station, this county; Jean, at home; Homer Glenn, of Vandergrift, Pa.; Rilla; and Mary, a school teacher in Center township.