

HUGH P. LEWIS, agriculturist, of East Mahoning township, postmaster at Marion Center, and ex-sheriff of Indiana county, was born in the county, in Rayne township, April 30, 1842, son of Samuel Lewis.

The Lewis family is of Welsh origin, and has been associated with Indiana county history since the close of the Revolutionary war. The founder of the family in this part of the State was Samuel Lewis, born in Franklin county, Pa., in 1770, and there reared to manhood. He crossed the Allegheny mountains and became a pioneer of Indiana county, locating in Young township in 1790. This part of the State was then in the wilderness, and when Mr. Lewis settled on what is now the Lowry farm he was surrounded by extreme pioneer conditions. In endeavoring to develop a home he overtaxed his strength, and after ten years of hard and unrelenting labor died, still in the prime of life, a sacrifice to the spirit of early settlement, in 1800, aged thirty years.

Samuel Lewis married Lydia Kelley, born in 1779, who after his death married John Niel, and lived to be eighty-eight years old. She was a member of Bethel Church. By her first marriage she had three children: Nathaniel, who married Rachel Gossage; Stephen, who married Ann Hopkins; and Samuel. By her second marriage she had these children: Rachel, who married Thomas Lowman; John, who married Nancy Coleman; Hugh, who married Sarah Ann Wilkinson (he was the progenitor of the Niel family of Young township); and Keziah, who died unmarried.

Samuel Lewis, son of Samuel Lewis, and father of Hugh Parr Lewis, was born in Young township Jan. 18, 1801, after the death of his father, on what is known as the Lowry farm. After attaining to manhood's estate he worked in the Clarksburg gristmill, and later went to Jefferson county, locating near Frostburg. After some years there he went to Rayne township, and bought 300 acres of land in the woods. On this property he erected a log house and barn, but later put up a house of frame and barns to correspond, and made extensive improvements, devoting his land to general farming and stock raising. His life was spent on this farm, where he died at the age of eighty-three years, and his remains were interred in the Washington Church cemetery of Rayne township. Both a member and elder of the Presbyterian Church, he was one of its generous supporters. First a Whig and later a Republican, his sympathies were with the abolition movement, and he operated one of the stations of the underground railroad.

In 1826 Samuel Lewis married Mary Graham, who was born in 1808 in what is now Wheatfield township, a daughter of William Graham, a native of Scotland and an early settler of Wheatfield township. Mrs. Lewis died on the home farm and was also laid to rest in Washington Church cemetery. Like her husband, she was a member of the Presbyterian Church. The children born to Samuel and Mary (Graham) Lewis were: William G., who married Margaret Davis; John K., who married Ruth Thompson; Alexander Brown, a lawyer, who was a lieutenant of an Iowa company during the Civil war and died from the effects of wounds received at the battle of Inka; Rachel, who died when fourteen years old; Lydia, who died at the age of eleven years; Hugh P.; Nathaniel, who died at the age of seven years; Rachel Ann, who married Moses Lemon; and Stephen Clark, who married a Miss Rankin and lives in Indiana.

Hugh P. Lewis attended the schools of his neighborhood and remained at home with his father until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he began to be interested in military matters. In the spring of 1862 he enlisted in Company K, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, under Capt. D. K. Duff and Colonel Scholmaker, for three years. After his promotion to the rank of corporal, he was discharged for disability while in the line of duty. To his loyal spirit it was a sore cross to be obliged to return home, but his physical condition made this imperative, and he had the satisfaction of having risked his life and lost his health in the defense of his country.

Returning home Mr. Lewis took a commercial course in the Iron City Business College at Pittsburg, and then became a clerk in a store at Marion center. Soon afterward though he began farming, settling on a 170-acre farm in 1869. This property is known as the "Rolling Farm," and is north of Marion Center. As his property was eminently suited for stock raising, Mr. Lewis began experimenting along that line in 1874, and found it so profitable that he developed into a heavy breeder of thoroughbred horses, specially noted ones being Fleetwood (a Hambletonian) and Lewis Dolphin. Mr. Lewis also raises Jersey cattle, and his dairy products command the highest prices because of superior quality. He has become an authority as well upon Berkshire hogs and sheep. His farm is one of the finest in the county, the buildings thoroughly modern and constructed with the view of handling the stock effectively and scientifically. His profits demonstrate conclusively that his methods are wise and sound, and many are following the example he has set for so long. Like his father an ardent supporter of the principles of the Republican party, he has filled the offices of tax collector, overseer of the poor, auditor of the township and supervisor. For three years he was county auditor, and in 1890 he was elected sheriff of Indiana county, serving as such for three years. In 1910 he was appointed postmaster at Marion Center, after he had taken the civil service examination. He has always demonstrated his warm interest in school matters in a practical way, and knows what he is talking about, for he taught school several terms in East Mahoning township in his younger days. Since the organization of the John Pollock Post, No. 219, G.A.R., at Marion center, he has been an enthusiastic member, and has held all the offices up and including that of commander. He also belongs to the Jr. O. U. A. M. The Presbyterian Church holds his membership and he was one of the teachers of the Sunday school and also served as superintendent. For a period of twenty years, he led the choir in this church.

In 1866 Mr. Lewis was married to Ella Bingham Ansley, daughter of the late Daniel Ansley, who served Indiana county as sheriff. Twelve children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, two of whom died in infancy; William died young; Naomi Viola was formerly a teacher and is now married to H. R. Martin, a lawyer; Estell Bubb was graduated from Jefferson Medical College and is now a practicing physician at Glen Campbell, Indiana Co., Pa.; Blanch Hope was graduated from the Indiana normal school, following which she was a teacher for eight years, and she is now the wife of W. C. Harrison, of Painesville, Ohio; John K., who was graduated from the Pittsburg School of Pharmacy, is engaged in the

drug business at Greensburg, Pa.: Mary Mabel was graduated from the Indiana normal school and was a stenographer and typewriter until she married William H. McIntire, of Decatur, Ill, who died Jan. 19, 1913; Ruby Pearl was graduated from the Liberty Heights School for Nurses and for several years followed her profession, until her marriage to John C. Sheriden, of Johnstown, Pa.; Marion Gale died at the age of eleven years; Noble N., who attended the Indiana State normal school, married R. R. Kirne, and resides at home; Hugh Ansley is assistant postmaster at Marion Center. Mrs. Lewis is a charming woman, whose aim has been to bring up her children properly and aid her husband in every way.