

ISRAEL CARNAHAN, farmer, business man and public official of Armstrong township, Indiana county, was born Sept. 18, 1849, in Bell township, Westmoreland Co., Pa., where the Carnahans lived prior to their settlement in Indiana county.

The Carnahan family is numbered among the early settlers of this section of Pennsylvania, the Carnahans having come to America at the same time as the well-known Tomb family of East Wheatfield township, this county, Thomas Carnahan, grandfather of Israel Carnahan, resided in Perrysville, Westmoreland county, five miles from Saltsburg. He married a Miss McKinley, and they had the following children: Israel, Thomas, Elizabeth (married Matthias Jockey), Wilson (who went to California in 1849, returned to Pittsburg and engaged in the shoe business), Samuel and David R.

David R. Carnahan, son of Thomas, was born at Perrysville, in Bell township, Westmoreland county, and died aged ninety-one in Armstrong township, Indiana county. His schooling was limited, and at an early age he became head of a family. Farming was his principal vocation, and he was enterprising and progressive, being the first man in Westmoreland county to own a grain cradle. Later he went to McKeesport, Pa., where he followed mining for a time, and then returning home to Westmoreland county bought a farm of 150 acres, which he subsequently laid out into building lots and sold, this being what is now Perrysville. In 1846 he became interested in salt works on the Kiskiminetas river, near Saltsburg, and for a time was engaged in making salt, and at the same time conducted a steam gristmill located on the Kiskiminetas. He then moved to what is now Salina station and followed milling, then moved to the old farm at Perrysville, and in 1848 came to Indiana county, where he purchased the James Clark farm of 150 acres in White township. A number of years afterward he made a trade with John Cunningham, giving that place for a tract of 180 acres in Armstrong township, upon which he passed the rest of his days, carrying on general farming. He was much respected in his neighborhood, served at one time as supervisor of roads, held other offices of trust, and was a valued member of the United Presbyterian Church. His first wife, Martha (Morrison), died at the age of thirty-seven years, and he subsequently married (second) Lavina Berkeypile. There were five children by the first union; Thomas M. is mentioned elsewhere; Mary Agnes married Thomas Hearn; Israel is mentioned below; Martha (deceased) married Sansom Person; John Morrison (deceased) married Margaret Cunningham. Eight children were born to the second marriage; Albert, Carrie, Harvey, Lottie, Levi, Levina, David M. and Dick.

Israel Carnahan came to Indiana county with his parents in 1848 and received his education in the common schools in this county. He continued to reside with his parents till he was married, when he located on part of the homestead, a tract of seventy-two acres in Armstrong township, to which he has since added, now having eighty-five acres, and he has been improving the place continuously throughout the period of his residence there. In 1893 he built a large, substantial house and a fine barn, and by reason of natural advantages and intelligent management the property is now one of the most valuable of its size in this section. It is richly underlaid with coal. Mr. Carnahan is thoroughly

up-to-date in all his work, engaging in general farming and stock raising. He was one of those chiefly instrumental in having the telephone line between Indiana and Parkwood established. In December, 1909, he and Mr. William Glass started out to take subscriptions for the enterprise, and when they had enough guarantees to insure its success went to the Bell Telephone Company with the proposition and were promptly accommodated. It has proved a benefit to all its patrons, which is Mr. Carnahan's best reward for his labors. He was elected president of the local company, known as the Indiana & Parkwood Telephone Company (subsidiary of the Bell Telephone Company), and served as such two years; he is still a stockholder. Mr. Carnahan was foreman of the State road from Indiana to Apollo, Pa., during 1912-13, and he has frequently been honored with election to public office, having served his township as school director, assessor, tax collector, road supervisor and member of the election board. Politically he is a republican. For thirty-four years he has been a member of the Crete United Presbyterian Church, to which his family also belongs, and he has served same twelve years as trustee and for the last twenty years as elder.

On Dec. 26, 1873, Mr. Carnahan married Nancy Angeline Anthony, daughter of David W. and Margaret (Miller) Anthony, of Armstrong township, and they have had a family of twelve children, namely: Harry David, who is an employee in the United States mail service in Armstrong township, married Martha Lowry; Minnie, who is teaching at Girty, Armstrong Co., Pa., was graduated from the Indiana State normal school in 1905; Elizabeth married Samuel Shearer, a farmer in White township; Annie graduated from the Indiana State normal school and from business college, was a school teacher in Vandergrift at one time, and is now the wife of Lisle Coltbaugh; Lorretta is the wife of Arthur Warner, a farmer in Center township; Bertha, married Robert McCurdy, an engineer, of West Lebanon, Pa.; Sadie graduated from the Indiana State normal school in 1910, and is now teaching school in Armstrong township; Lisle M., a farmer in Armstrong township, married Zula Rowe; Wilbur, Grace, Hazel and Imogene are at home.