

JAMES A. PEARCE, merchant, engaged in business at Rossiter, Indiana Co., Pa., was born Feb. 12, 1873, in Canoe township, this county, son of Abraham Pearce and grandson of Job Pearce.

Job Pearce was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. He owned a farm in South Mahoning township and lived in the old stone house at Plumville, that township. When he came to canoe township he settled one mile from Rossiter. During the summers he engaged in farming, spending his winters in teaching school. He and wife died in Canoe township, and they were buried in the Pearce cemetery, near Rossiter.

Abraham Pearce, son of Job and father of James A. Pearce, was born in the old stone house above mentioned, in Plumville, South Mahoning township, in 1830, and more or less regularly attended school in the village of Plumville until he was seventeen years of age, when he accompanied his parents on their removal to canoe township. Later he acquired much land, having two farms aggregating 528 acres, and his life was devoted to agricultural pursuits and lumbering. In politics he was a republican, but never accepted any public office. In religion he was a Presbyterian, belonging first to the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church in Jefferson county, but later uniting with the Presbyterian Church at Rossiter. He died Jan. 11, 1906, aged seventy-six years. He married Mary Smith, a daughter of Andrew Smith, of Olive township, Jefferson Co., Pa., and she died at the age of sixty-four years. The following children were born to them: Harry, who is deceased; Elmer A., a resident of Punxsutawney, who married Bertha Crawford; Calvin R., who married Annie Neal, daughter of former County Commissioner Neal, of Indiana county, who during 1912 was manager of the county poor farm; and James A.

James A. Pearce attended public school in Canoe township and spent one year in the Lock Haven normal school. He then learned the art of telegraphy and for ten years engaged in telegraphic work, first serving six months with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, at Winslow, Pa., for two years, two months was operator at Winslow, and for two more years at Fordham, for the above company; for six months was operator at Braddock, Pa., for the Pittsburg & Lake Erie Railroad Company; for two years, six months was stationed at Rossiter, for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company; was operator one year at Curwensville for the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg Railroad Company, and for one year was operator at Chambersville for that company. He then gave up telegraphy and turned his attention to merchandising, purchasing the general store of M. H. Harvey at Rossiter, which he has successfully conducted ever since.

Mr. Pearce married Agnes L. Conger, a daughter of Hiram and Hannah Conger, of Waynesburg, Greene Co., Pa. Mrs. Pearce died leaving one son, James C., who is six years old. The second marriage of Mr. Pearce was to Ida C. Conger, sister of first wife, and they have two children: Elenora, who is three years old, and Evaline Gertrude, an infant. Mr. Pearce is a member of the Presbyterian Church at Rossiter, has served one term as school director.