

JOHN HARVEY LYTLE, who is engaged in farming and the growing of small fruits in Conemaugh township, was born May 29, 1847, in the stone house erected by his grandfather, on Lytle's run, in Conemaugh township, Indiana Co., Pa., and is a son of John and Eliza (Cruthers) Lytle. Alexander Lytle, was his paternal grandfather.

John Lytle, son of Alexander Lytle, was born in Conemaugh township and there attended the common schools. He worked on the home farm with his parents until he attained his majority, at which time he purchased 150 acres of farming land from his father, a part of the original homestead, making his residence in the old stone house which his father had built in 1813, and which is now occupied by Theo. Martin. There he followed farming and did extensive stock raising, continuing to operate his farm on Lytle's run until his death, when he was buried beside his wife in Conemaugh cemetery. A stalwart Republican, he served his township as assessor and justice of the peace for over ten years, and was also supervisor of roads and a member of the election board for a long period. Mr. Lytle served as a member of the building committee of the United Presbyterian Church, with which he was connected all of his life. John and Eliza (Cruthers) Lytle had the following children: Alexander Clark died at the age of twenty-four years; William Calvin, a farmer of Conemaugh township all of his life, married Malinda J. Elrick, and died in 1908; John Harvey is mentioned later; Melissa Jane married Harry E. Nowery; Eveline E. married Levi Kuhns; Cordelia married James E. Wilson; Franklin Pierce married Sarah Dunmeyer; Mary Allen married William Gregg.

John Harvey Lytle, son of John Lytle, attended the public schools of district No. 5, and worked with his parents until 1868, when he located on the Sam Waddle farm in Conemaugh township, which he cropped for five years. He then moved back to the opposite side of Lytle's run from his father's home, and there, in 1873, purchased a farm of 100 acres, on which he erected a modern residence, fine barn and substantial outbuildings. Mr. Lytle has engaged in general farming, giving a good deal of attention to stock raising, and at one time was the owner of a threshing machine, with which he traveled all over the country during the season, threshing his neighbors; crops with a steam engine of high power, but his he later disposed of. He was also the proprietor of a sawmill from 1882 to 1892, buying up timber and converting it into railroad ties and long planks, which he sold to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, but this business he also disposed of. Mr. Lytle is an up-to-date and progressive farmer and an extensive grower of small fruits, and has met with uniform success in all his undertakings. It may be said that the foundation stone of his success has been business integrity, for no man in Conemaugh bears a higher reputation for probity and honest dealing. He wields a wide influence in public matters in his neighborhood, but has never been a seeker for personal preferment, although he has on various occasions served as a member of the election board. He has supported the principles and policies of the Republican party. His religious connection is with the Tunnelton Presbyterian Church, which his wife and children also attend, and all are liberal supporters of its enterprises.

Mr. Lytle was united in marriage with Mary Catherine Waddle, daughter of Samuel Waddle, of Conemaugh township, Indiana county, and to this union there have been born seven children, as follows: Samuel, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Westmoreland county, married bertha Long; Wallace, unmarried, a civil engineer by profession, is now connected with the New York City building department as an inspector; John, also unmarried, is in the employ of the Western Electric Company, at Wilberdeen, Pa.; Sheldon, who resides at home, is assisting his father in the work of the homestead; Martha married Ambrose Stein, a farmer of Westmoreland county; Laura met an accidental death in a runaway accident, when she was twenty years of age; bertha married Edward Beach and died at the age of twenty-eight years, the mother of one child, Ethel. The members of this family are all well known in Indiana county, where they are held in the highest esteem.