

JOHN M. CARSON , postmaster at Homer City, Indiana county, is a native of that town, born July 27, 1868. His grandfather, John Carson, was born in Perry county, Pa., where he grew to manhood. His father died in middle life, leaving a family. John, one of the sons, came to Indiana county, where his brothers Alexander and William settled, also his sisters Susan and Jane. He learned the trade of cooper in Perry county, but when he located in Center township, Indiana county, he rented a farm, and followed farming all the remainder of his life. He died on the farm at the age of seventy years. He was twice married, the second time to Elizabeth Steel, who was a native of Franklin county, daughter of Matthew Steel. She lived to the ripe age of ninety-two years. She was the mother of eight children: Mary, who died unmarried; James, deceased; William, deceased; Estella, deceased; Robert P.; and Thomas, also deceased.

Robert P. Carson, father of John M. Carson, was born in Center township April 15, 1835, and educated in the public schools there. Although he worked on the farm until seventeen years old he also learned the shoemaker's trade, in 1856 locating in Homer City and following his trade. He has been in business there continuously for the past fifty-six years and is still actively engaged, being one of the best-known men in the borough, highly respected for his honest, industrious career. He has always been a good citizen and deeply interested in the welfare of his town. He cast his first vote for Lincoln and has been a staunch Republican since. Mr. Carson was married in Homer City to Mary C. Foust, who was born in Somerset county, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Carson attend the M. E. Church. They are the parents of ten children: Albert; Kate, who married Robert E. Roberts; Cora, who died young; John M.; Loie Ellen, who married Henry E. Phillips; Annie, married to John F. Barkley; Edgar D.; Gertrude, married to Bruce D. Kramer; George H.; and Mary Estella, married to Henry A. Trusal.

John M. Carson attended public school in Homer City. At an early age he started out to make his own way, finding his first employment in the planing mills of J. M. Guthrie & Co., of Homer City, where he remained twelve years, during half of which time he was foreman. His next position was with the Prairie State Incubator Company, of Homer City, by which concern he was employed for a period of eleven years, five of which he was foreman of the plant. On Nov. 4, 1903, under the administration of President Roosevelt, he was appointed postmaster at Homer City, succeeding B. B. McConnaughty. The office was at that time in the fourth class. On Feb. 1, 1906, it was raised to third class, and on Jan. 3, 1910, to second class, being the first office in the county raised to second class within such a short period. Mr. Carson was reappointed by Roosevelt, and again under Taft, having held his position continuously since he first assumed his duties. His business-like management and the satisfactory service he has given to his fellow citizens have won him their respect and a well-deserved reputation for ability and efficiency. He is a member of the Postmasters' Association. For eight terms he has been a member of the Homer City school board, on which he is still serving, and has been president the last two years. He is a leading member of the M. E. Church, in which he holds the office of trustee. Socially he

belongs to I.O.O.F. Lodge, No. 41, at Homer City, and to Indiana Lodge, No. 313, F. & A.M.

In 1891 Mr. Carson married at Homer City Elizabeth Sloan, and they have three children: Martha, who is a clerk in the post-office; Jay, and Robert.