

EVANS. Members of the Evans family of Indiana county were among the first of the early settlers of western Pennsylvania. The first of the name in this county was Hugh Evans, who was a native of Wales, born in Cardiff, where he grew to maturity. When a young man he left his native home to try his fortune in the western world. He crossed the Atlantic on a sailing vessel, working for his passage. Among his fellow passengers was a young English girl who intended to make her future home in the United States, and the young Welshman wooed her so successfully that when they landed at Philadelphia, where they spent a short time, they married. The young couple then came West, locating first at the Welsh settlement near Evansburg. They soon moved from there to Indiana county, locating in Brushvalley township, on a tract of land where Hugh Evans built his little log home and started to clear a farm from a wilderness. After remaining on this farm for a few years he sold it and bought a 400-acre bush and timber tract, a part of which is now included in Mechanicsburg. Here he started to make his future home, erecting a log cabin and barn. By hard work he cleared up much of his land and made other improvements on the property, putting up a frame dwelling house, barn, et cetera. He also erected a saw and grist mill, the first of its kind in the township. Mr. Evans spent his life on this farm, and there died at the age of sixty years. He was buried on the farm, in what is now known as the Evans family cemetery. A man noted for his enterprise and progressive ideas, he was hardworking and industrious, much devoted to his home and family. He was a member of the Baptist Church, as were also his wife and children. His widow died on the farm and was buried in the family plot there. The seven children born to this marriage were as follows: John; Ann, who married John Kelly and (second) James Stewart; Hugh, who died in Altoona, Pa.; Mary, who married Henry Grumbling; Elizabeth (Betsey), who married Joseph McNutt, of Brushvalley township; Evan, who lived and died in Brushvalley township; and James, who died in Center township.

John Evans, eldest son of Hugh Evans, was born in Brushvalley township, and what education he received was obtained in the schools of that section. He grew up on the farm of his father and made farming and stock raising his life occupation, receiving 250 acres of the homestead farm. There he erected buildings and made other improvements, passing all his life on the place, where he died at the age of seventy years, seven months, and is buried in the family lot, the Evans graveyard. He was a member of the Baptist Church, of which he was deacon. He was a Whig and Republican, but took no active part in public life. He was a strong admirer of the martyred President Lincoln and during the Civil War his sympathy was for the Union, his only son enlisting to uphold the flag and preserve the Union. He was married in Brushvalley township to Elizabeth Sanderson, a native of Hagerstown, Md., daughter of Thomas Sanderson, who had settled in that township. Mrs. Evans died on the farm and is buried in the family cemetery. She was a member of the Baptist Church, a devoted wife and mother, doing her duty by her family, which consisted of eight children: Benjamin, who died in Brushvalley township; Maria, who married John Bracken, and both died in East Wheatfield township; Emily, who married John Finley, of Blairsville (he died in Brushvalley township); Lucinda, who is the widow of William Conrad

and resides in East Wheatfield township; Susan, who married David Overdoff (both are deceased); Elizabeth, who married Thomas Gregory, and died in Franklin, Pa.; Rebecca, who married Finley Campbell, and died in Johnstown; and John Sanderson.

JOHN SANDERSON EVANS, youngest child of John and Elizabeth (Sanderson) Evans, was born on the homestead farm in Brushvalley township Aug. 13, 1844. His education was acquired in the public schools of his native township, and from early life he was accustomed to work on the farm, which he helped to operate until the death of his father. He then became the owner, and continued to cultivate the place during his active life, engaging in general farming and stock raising. He also bought the Chambers farm in the same township, a tract of 162 acres which he likewise operated. In 1908 he retired from farming, moving to Homer City, where he built a home and where he and his wife are enjoying the evening of a well-spent life, reaping the benefits of years of toil.

During the Civil war Mr. Evans enlisted, Aug. 20, 1864, in Company H, 206th P.V.I., 1st Brigade, 2d Division, 24th Army Corps, being under the command of Capt. J. C. Grear and Col. Hugh J. Brady. He was stationed for a time in front of Petersburg and later at Richmond. Mr. Evans spent ten months in the service, being mustered out at the close of the war, June 10, 1865. He has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party, a firm believer in its principles, and is a strong admirer of Roosevelt. He served the township of Brushvalley as supervisor, was assessor two terms, tax collector one term, school director and overseer of the poor two terms. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, belonging to Bolar Post, at Homer city, and is chaplain of his post. He and his family are members of the M. E. Church, of which he is steward, trustee and class leader. Mr. Evans is a strong advocate of temperance, a citizen and family man who would do credit to any community. He educated his nine children well and gave them all a fair start in life, and they reflect credit on him and his devoted wife, being thrifty and industrious citizens, of sterling worth.

On July 16, 1865, Mr. Evans married Metilda Helman, who was born in Wheatfield township, daughter of Adam and Mary (Fry) Helman. To this union were born children as follows: (1) Harry H., born March 28, 1867, is an electrical engineer, and resides at Renton, Wash. He married Rhoda Croyle, and has five children, Joseph, John Bair, Name, Beulah and Edwin. (2) Bennett B., born March 21, 1869, is an engineer on the Pennsylvania railroad and makes his home at Pittsburg. He married Sally Swaring, of Steubenville, Ohio, and their children are Ralph, Merle, Clarence and Harold. (3) Ella N., born Jan. 8, 1872, married James K. Altman, and resides in Brushvalley township. They have two children, Charles and Fanny. (4) Charles, born March 8, 1875, an engineer on the Pennsylvania railroad, residing at Pittsburg, married Ida Echinger. (5) Albert P., born June 9, 1877, a farmer in Brushvalley township, married Mamie Benchman. (6) Frank, born Dec. 5, 1880, residing in Pittsburg, married Nora Mock. (7) Gertrude, born July 2, 1883, resides at home. (8) Clair, born March 4, 1886, who lives on the homestead farm, married Alma McCrea, and they have two children, Blanch and Robert. (9) Elsie Edna, born Sept. 2, 1889, married George Kelley, of Homer City, and has one child, Ruth.