

JOSEPH CRAMER, deceased, was for many years one of the best-known charcoal manufacturers in western Pennsylvania, while for over half a century he was a resident of East Wheatfield township. For a portion of this time he lived in the village of Cramer, which was named in his honor. He was born in Cape May county, N. J., Dec. 8, 1829. Although his opportunities for acquiring an education were somewhat limited he attended school all he was able, and continued to improve his mind by reading and observation. Learning the business of charcoal manufacturing, he found it his life work. In 1856, two years after his married, Mr. Cramer located at Baker's furnace, now the village of Cramer, in East Wheatfield township, where he embarked in the manufacture of charcoal, developing large interests. In addition to this line of business he was an extensive farmer, and carried on lumbering, all of his operations being upon a large scale. For some years he was extensively interested in the development of the coal mines at Cramer, and when he saw that the time was ripe he opened a mercantile establishment there, the business being conducted under the style of Joseph Cramer & Son and Joseph Cramer & Sons. Naturally, as he was so important a factor at Cramer, when the postoffice was established at that point and named after him he was made postmaster, and held that office for many years. Owing to his wide interests, he was able to give employment to hundreds of men, in whose welfare he took a deep interest, and the relations existing between them and him were of a pleasant nature. Intelligent, well-informed, and possessed of more than ordinary executive ability, Mr. Cramer naturally took a leading part in local affairs and was looked up to as a leader of sterling character, who could be trusted to the best for all concerned. A staunch Republican from the formation of the party, he always supported its principles and never missed casting his presidential vote from the time he first voted, in 1852. Although he had not enjoyed all the advantages given his children by the public school system, he believed in it and gave it his hearty and valuable support. A very religious man, he was active as a member of the Methodist Church, and helped to organize the society at Cramer. He did not confine his activity to generous contributions, but also gave his time as a class leader, Sunday school superintendent and teacher. In May, 1906, this excellent man passed away at his home in Cramer, and was buried in the cemetery at Armagh in East Wheatfield township

On Jan. 5, 1854, Mr. Cramer was married at Bens Creek, Pa., by rev. Richard Jordon, a clergyman of the Methodist Church, to Sarah A. Barclay, who was born in Somerset county, Pa., Dec. 25, 1835. She was a daughter of Thomas and Eliza (Dougherty) Barclay, the latter born at Stoystown, Somerset Co., Pa., daughter of John and Susan (Wolf) Dougherty. Her father, John Dougherty, a tailor, was born in 1755, and died in 1835. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, serving nearly all of the eight years of that conflict. Mrs. Barclay, who died in 1898, aged ninety-five years, was a consistent member of the Methodist Church from early girlhood. Mrs. Cramer and her husband had the pleasure of celebrating the golden anniversary of their wedding on Jan. 5, 1904, and enjoyed the event immensely. Their married life was a very happy one, and they lived long enough to see their children develop into fine men and women. Mrs. Cramer passed away July 18, 1910, and like her mother was faithful in her

allegiance to the Methodist Church; her remains were laid to rest in the cemetery by the side of her husband.

Joseph Cramer and his wife had ten children: Mary E., born at Bens Creek, Dec. 12, 1854, married William Harvey Findley; Thomas W., born May 10, 1857, is mentioned below; Annie E., born June 24, 1859, married William S. Ashcom, and lives at Johnstown, Pa.; Laura M., born May 21, 1861, married Harvey W. Ling, and died July 13, 1897; Robert G. is mentioned below; Joseph, Jr., born in August, 1866, died in 1875; Maude E., born March 17, 1869, married John H. Myers, of Cramer, Pa.; Catherine F., born Sept. 6, 1871,. Married Charles L. McClure, of Cramer, Pa.; Aldie, born in 1874, died in November, 1875; Bruce D., born June 10, 1878, married Gertrude Carson, daughter of Robert Carson, and lives at Fort Morgan, Colorado.