

JOSEPH M. CRIBBS, a retired conductor, veteran of the Civil war, residing at Blairsville, was born in Clarion county, Pa., April 2, 1846, son of John and Peninah (Tax) Cribbs.

John Cribbs was born in Indiana county, Pa., and was a blacksmith by trade, following his calling in Westmoreland, Butler, Clarion and Indiana counties. He was three times married, and when the Civil war broke out he was the father of eighteen living children and seven grandchildren. Seven of his sons and seven grandsons took part in the Civil war, and three of them were killed on the battlefield. He had nine children by the mother of Joseph M. Cribbs, who was born in Clarion county, and four of these children now survive.

Joseph M. Cribbs early began to be self-supporting, and when he was only eight years old he engaged to work for James Shields for three dollars per month and his board. Continuing with this man for six years, the little fellow learned some hard lessons aside from those taught in the winter terms of school, which he attended. At the age of fourteen he became employed at the Red Brick furnace and remained there until the outbreak of the Civil war. Although only sixteen years old he enlisted in June, 1862, as a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, Independent Cavalry, and served six months, when he was honorably discharged at Pittsburg. Not satisfied, this patriotic young man reenlisted, in Company A, 14th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, under Colonel Schoonmaker, and was mustered in at Fort Leavenworth, Kans. He was made quartermaster sergeant in the spring of 1865, and so continued until his discharge. His company operated in Virginia, and with Sheridan marched from Winchester to Petersburg and back to the old camp. After the surrender of General Lee they marched to Fairfax Station, where they remained until the grand review at Washington, in which the regiment participated. They were then sent to Maryland, but after a week in camp were sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kans., whence they went along the old trail to Ft. Kearney, and then to Fort Laramie. The next station was Fort Connor, where they built a stockade, and then returned to Fort Laramie. From the latter place, they cut across country to the Black Hills, and thence to Denver, Colo., and several of the men including Mr. Cribbs, made the trip to Pike's Peak. The regiment then returned to Fort Leavenworth, via Fort Riley, and they were mustered out in November, 1865.

After one year spent at home Mr. Cribbs enlisted in February, 1867, in the regular army, in Battery E, 3d Light Artillery, and was stationed in North Carolina and Florida during his three years' service. Returning home once more, at the expiration of this period, Mr. Cribbs turned his attention to railroading, first as a track builder and next as a brakeman. Two years later he was given charge of a work and wrecking train, which he operated for six years. Having proved his reliability to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in this manner, he was made conductor of a freight train from Blairsville to Allegheny and Conemaugh, and continued as a conductor on this road for forty-one years, three months, ten days, retiring in 1911. He was known among railroad men as the "lively conductor," and was often called upon in cases of emergency when a rapid man was required. A favorite alike with his company and the men, he numbers

thousands as his warm, personal friends, and enjoys meeting them whenever occasion offers.

In 1870 Mr. Cribbs was united in marriage with Nancy Jane Barr, daughter of Thomas Barr, of Blacklick Station. They have had children as follows: Ollie Estella, who is the wife of Ameheny Baker, of Blairsville; T.T., who lives in Blairsville; Fairby, who is the wife of W. H. Floyd, of Blairsville; Paulina, deceased; Joseph M., deceased; John R., who lives in Blairsville; and June, who is the wife of Arthur Nesbett, of Blairsville.

A member of Findley Patch Post, No. 137, G.A.R., Mr. Cribbs was elected its commander in 1912. He is a consistent member of the United Presbyterian Church. Faithful in all things, Mr. Cribbs was a brave soldier and an efficient conductor, and can look back with pride on his long and useful life.