

JOSIAH G. EVANS, of White township, Indiana county, engaged in general merchandising, was born March 13, 1841, in Brushvalley township, this county, where the Evanses were among the eldest pioneer settlers. The family is of Welsh extraction.

Hugh Evans, grandfather of Josiah G. Evans, and the founder of the family in this country, was a native of Cardiff, Wales, and crossed the Atlantic when a young man, working to pay his passage on the vessel. Among the passengers was a young English girl with whom he fell in love, and they were married when they landed at Philadelphia. They came west to the Welsh settlement near Ebensburg, in Cambria county, Pa., where they remained for a short time, until they came to Indiana county, locating in Brushvalley township. They were among the first settlers there. Settling in the wilderness, Mr. Evans built his log cabin and set to work clearing up the land. He remained but a short time on his first farm, buying a 400-acre tract, all brush and timber, near the site of Mechanicsburg, upon which he settled down to farming. Much of this land is still in the family name. Here he built a dwelling house and barn, and also erected a saw and grist mill—the first of the kind in Brush creek valley. The mill was of stone, and stood on Brush creek about three quarters of a mile below the present site of Mechanicsburg, and for many years was a prominent landmark. He also owned a distillery. He worked hard and faithfully, prospered in his own affairs and did his full duty as a citizen, being one of the enterprising and progressive men of his day and generation. He was a strong abolitionist. He died on his farm in 1849, at the age of seventy years, and was buried in what is known as the Evans graveyard in Brushvalley township. He was a member of the Baptist Church, the first Baptist to settle in the township. His first wife, Hannah, died leaving children as follows: Ann, who married John Kelly and (second) James Stewart; John; Hugh, who died at Altoona; Mary, who married Henry Grumbling; Elizabeth (Betsy), who first married Joseph McNutt; Evan, who lived in Brushvalley; William, who married Susan Wilkins; and James, who died in Center township. Mr. Evans married for his second wife Esther Creswell, and she bore him three children: Ellen, Rebecca and Lucinda (who married Rev. A. B. Runyan, a well-known Baptist minister of Mechanicsburg).

Evan Evans, son of Hugh, was born in Brushvalley township, and lived to be over eighty, dying in Brushvalley township. He bought a farm and followed agricultural pursuits, and also ran a mill in his earlier days. He married Sarah George, a native of White township, daughter of Jacob George, who was born in Westmoreland county, this State, and came in an early day to Indiana county, settling in White township; Mr. George owned land followed farming all his life. Mrs. Evans died before her husband, passing away when aged about seventy. They were the parents of three children, one son and two daughters, one of whom, Elizabeth, became the wife of Elijah Peddicord, now deceased; she resides at Franklin, Pa. Susanna died young.

Josiah G. Evans was educated in Brushvalley township. He began working on the farm for his father when a mere boy, and remained there until his enlistment, during the Civil war, for service in the Union army. He became a member of Company E, 211th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel

Trimble, and was in service about a year, taking part in a number of battles. He was mustered out at Fortress Monroe, and after receiving his discharge returned home, continuing to work on the old farm until 1904, when he embarked in the general mercantile business which he has ever since conducted, opening a store at Twolick in White township. He is located on Indiana, R.F.D. route No. 4. Mr. Evans is an accommodating and enterprising business man, and has acquired a profitable patronage in his vicinity, building up his business by honorable dealing and creditable methods. He is well known all over the township, having held various township offices. His religious connection is with the Baptist Church, and for several years he has been a member of the G.A.R., post at Indiana borough; he was a charter member of Mechanicsburg Post, G.A.R.

Mr. Evans married Mary Freet, a native of Indiana county, daughter of Louis E. Freet, an early settler in the county. Eight children were born to this union: Luna, Mae, Ella, Clara, Susan, Myrtle, Bertlett and Evan E. The mother of this family died in the winter of 1904, and on March 24, 1906, Mr. Evans married (second) Mrs. Kate Baldwin Lynch, who was born in Armstrong county, Pa., daughter of Isaac and Charlotte (Roff) Baldwin. Mrs. Evans' father died in 1900, in White township. He was a carpenter by trade, and settle at an early day in Armstrong county. Mrs. Baldwin now makes her home in Indiana. Kate Baldwin first married John Lynch, by whom she had one child, Joella, now the wife of Hollis Lockard, of Vandergrift, Pennsylvania.