

MERTON E. CHURCHILL, D.D.S., who has been practicing dentistry in Arcadia, Indiana county, for the last ten years, is a member of an old and much respected family of this section, being a son of Philander and Elizabeth Harriet (Rank) Churchill, and grandson of John L. and Maria (Hazlett) Churchill. John L. Churchill was a shoemaker and farmer. He came from New York to Indiana county in 1831, and later went West, where he died. His wife was a native of Bellefonte, Pa., died in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania.

Philander Churchill was born March 22, 1832, in Montgomery township, Indiana Co., Pa., was educated in the public schools, and when a young man was engaged in the manufacture of shoes for eight years. Since 1865 he has been engaged in the mercantile business at Hillsdale, and with the exception of four years has been postmaster there continuously since 1873. He has served two terms as secretary of the Montgomery township school board. On June 19, 1856, he married Elizabeth Harriet Rank, daughter of Samuel and Mary Ann Rank, and of the children born to them Albert, Edward, Clara Ann (Mrs. Stevens), Jesse D. (a merchant) and Bertha (who married D. Ford Rankin and after his death became the wife of James A. Smith) are deceased. Six survive: Mary Almeda, who married James Weaver and (second) Wesley Standish; Sarah Frances, wife of James D. Ake; William T., who married Elva Spicher; George R., a physician, who has been twice married, first to Ollie Hazlett; Merton E.; and John S., who married Maud McElhinny.

Merton E. Churchill was born Oct. 18, 1878, at Hillsdale, Montgomery township, this county, and received his literary education in the public schools there. He took his course in dentistry at the Pittsburg Dental College, graduating in May, 1902, and has since been engaged in the practice of his profession at Arcadia, where he has established a fine patronage by good work and reliability. Though he himself takes little active part in public affairs he is a thoroughly public-spirited citizen, supporting the men and measures he thinks will benefit the community best. He votes the Prohibition ticket. He is a member of the Alumni of the Pittsburg Dental College.

On Oct. 15, 1902, Dr. Churchill married Pearl Wissell, of Indiana county, daughter of Martin L. and Lucy (Moorhead) Wissell, the former a contractor engaged in moving buildings.