

MILTON EMERSON CESSNA, of Plumville, Indiana county, dealer in lumber and builders' supplies, was born in Clearfield, Clearfield Co., Pa., march 9, 1860. The Cessna family is of French origin, but for upward of two hundred years the representatives of the family to which he belongs have made their home in America. The name was originally De Cessna.

The founder of the Cessna family in America was Count John De Cessna, who was born in the south of France, of a prominent family. He was a Huguenot, and an officer under William Prince of Orange, during the conquest of Ireland, participating in the battle of the Boyne in 1690. Later on Count De Cessna came to the American colonies, and locating first in Lancaster county, Pa., remained there for a period, thence going to York county, same State, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1751. He married a young Irish girl named Priscilla, and they had several sons, some of whom settled at Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

John Cessna (2), son of John and Priscilla, located near Shippensburg, where he was engaged in farming until he was captured by the Indians while working in his field about seven miles from Shippensburg, July 18, 1757, together with two of his sons and others.

John Cessna (3), son of John (2), was born Jan. 26, 1726, at Shippensburg, Pa., and moved to Bedford county, Pa., where in 1765 he bought a farm at Friends Cove, near Rainsburg, in Colerain township, which is still in the family. He took a very active part in the public affairs of Pennsylvania in his day, being a member of the constitutional convention of 1774 which drafted the first constitution of the State. As major of a regiment he took a patriotic part in the Revolutionary war, and later was sheriff of Bedford county for six years, from 1789, serving three terms of two years, each, giving his country and community distinguished service. He died March 31, 1802. His first wife, Sarah Rose, born Feb. 6, 1740, died July 1, 1788, the mother of children as follows: Jonathan, born Nov. 16, 1760; Rachel, born Aug. 1, 1762; John, born Dec. 8, 1764; Stephen, born Dec. 26, 1766; Elizabeth, born Dec. 1, 1768; William, born June 20, 1775; and others. Mr. Cessna's second marriage was to Elizabeth Hall, and by this union he had four children; Evan, Charles, James, and a daughter who died at the age of twenty.

Charles Cessna, son of John and Elizabeth (Hall) Cessna, was born in the homestead at Friends Cove, in Colerain township, Bedford Co., Pa., March 10, 1789. He married Katherine Smouse and they had the following children: George, William, Elizabeth, John, Annie, Betsy, Mary and Charles Washington. Mr. Cessna lived during his latter days at Blairsville, Indiana Co., Pa., where he died in 1829, while still in the very prime of life.

John Cessna, son of Charles and Katherine Cessna, was born at Blairsville, and was only five years old when he had the misfortune to lose his father. After he attained his majority he moved to Jefferson county, and there was engaged in lumbering, and later went to Clearfield county, continuing his lumber operations until 1866, when he settled near Smithport, in Banks township, Indiana Co., pa. There he ran a sawmill and dealt in lumber the remainder of his

life, also farming. He passed away in 1893. he was a Democrat politically while in religious faith he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

John Cessna married first a Miss Martin, who was born in Clearfield, and they had children as follows: George, who resides at Hortons, Pa.; William, who is deceased; Catherine, who died young; Kutora, deceased; and Eliza, who married Joseph Coy. By his second marriage, to Abigail Keslar, there were the following children: Sarah A., who married T. J. Hickox, of Jefferson county, Pa.; Milton Emerson; Ida, who married A. M. Tyger, of Canoe township; Lillie, who married H. G. Bowers, of Punxsutawney, Pa.; Mildred L., who married H. C. Tyger, of Rochester Mills; Melissa E., who married Frank F. McCall, of Punxsutawney; John, who died in childhood; and Ai, who also died in childhood.

Milton Emerson Cessna was only six years old when the family moved to Indiana county, so that he passed practically all his early life in this locality. He was sent to school at Smithport, and began working on the home farm in childhood, and in his father's sawmill. He continued in the lumber business with his father until the death of the latter, after which he carried it on alone, and was also interested in farming until 1904, when he rented the farm and moved to Indiana. There he formed a partnership with h. B. Engle, a dealer in builders' supplies. This association lasted for a year, when Mr. Cessna sold in 1905, coming to Plumville to establish himself in the business he has since carried on. He manufactures and deals in lumber of all kinds, and makes stair work and interior finish outside of Indiana, doing the largest business of the kind in the county. Mr. Cessna has erected a fine plant and store, and also three residences. Outside of contributing in this way to the material improvement of the town he has been interested in securing its municipal and moral advancement in other ways and is justly recognized as one of its leading men. Politically he is a Democrat.

On Sept. 16, 1885, Mr. Cessna was married in Banks township to Martha J. Bowers, born in Jefferson county, Pa., a daughter of Jacob Bowers. Mr. and Mrs. Cessna have had ten children: Harvey George, who is with the Buffalo & Susquehanna Railroad Co., married in 1907 Pauline Bridenstine, and they have three children, Harold, Martha and a baby; Clyde Emerson, who is at home, married Ada Crawford, and they have one child, Ralph Milton; Glenn is in Montana; Quay is working for the Buffalo & Susquehanna Railroad Co.; John, Ellen, Jacob and Arthur are at home; Maria was killed by an accident; Wayne is at home.

Mr. Cessna is a member of Knights of Pythias at Sagamore and the Odd Fellows at Plumville. A man of unusual business ability and fine principles, he has not only tried to make a success of his own affairs, but to live as a useful citizen. He is a worthy representative of an honored family.