

NIEL, JAMES and JOHN J. NIEL, brothers, occupy the old home place in West Mahoning township, Indiana county, where their parents settled over a half century ago. William Niel, their grandfather, the first of the family to come to the county, married Polly Cunningham, and his mother's maiden name was Mary Reynolds.

Abram I. Niel, son of William Niel, was born in 1807 in the southwestern part of Indiana county, and as educational facilities in this region were meager in those days he went to school only a short time. But he was intelligent and became well informed through his own efforts. In 1810 he accompanied his parents on their removal to North Mahoning township, where he grew to manhood, and located before his marriage in West Mahoning township, on a farm where his sons James and John now live, he and his wife always making their home there. It was wild land when he first came to it, and Mr. Niel put up a log cabin, which was later replaced by a frame dwelling as prosperity rewarded his toil. His first purchase consisted of sixty-nine acres, to which he kept adding till he had altogether about three hundred acres, and he farmed on this place until his death, which occurred May 22, 1894. His wife, Sarah (McCreight), of Winslow township, Jefferson Co., Pa., whom he married in June, 1848, died June 19, 1892. She was a daughter of Andrew and Ann (Sharp) McCreight, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. Mr. and Mrs. Niel were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and in politics he was a Democrat. Honest and hard-working, he made a success of his life by the most honorable methods, and was universally respected. The following children were born to himself and wife: Ann died in 1866, when seventeen years old. Thomas, who was a farmer, was killed on the railroad at Northpoint, Pa., in March, 1909; he married Loretta Barrett, and they had children, Sallie, Brice, Lowman, Mary, Annie, Herbert, Zilidah and Ethel. Andres, of Forest county, Pa., married Agnes Meanor. James was a teacher for several years, but now devotes all his time in farming, he and his brother John cultivating the old home place together. Abraham is living in Gove county, Kans. John J. has always lived on the old home place, which he operates in partnership with his brother.

James and John J. Niel were educated in the home locality, attending public school and they have engaged in farming along modern lines, becoming remarkably successful. They are counted among the most successful agriculturists of their section of Indiana county, as they are among the most extensive, their four hundred acres being in an excellent state of cultivation under their progressive management. They have proved their business ability as well as their aptitude for getting the most out of their land, and they enjoy good standing among the most favorably known farmers in their section.

On July 19, 1880, Mr. John J. Niel married Clara E. Coon, of West Mahoning township, daughter of James and Cynthia J. (Niel) Coon, farming people of that township. Children as follow have been born to them: (1) One daughter died in infancy. (2) James Lee, born June 26, 18822, attended common school and later went to the State normal at Indiana, Pa., advancing as far as the senior year; he taught school two terms, and prepared for work as an electrician, was at Iron City, Pa., for one year, and for the last five years has

been with the American Steel Company, at Pittsburg, hold the position of bookkeeper. (3) Anna N., born Feb. 26, 1885, taught school for three years having prepared at the normal school. She is now living hat home. (4) Bertha C., born Oct. 9, 1887, was engaged in teaching for one year and is now a dressmaker at Pittsburg. She was educated in the common schools and the normal schools at Indiana and Slippery rock. (5) Susie Pearl, born Sept. 26, 1891, was married Jan. 4, 1910, to Paul B. Anthony, of Jefferson county, who is engaged in sawmilling, and they have one child, John R. Anthony. (6) Edward W., born April 29, 1895, has always remained at home. (7) Mildred, born July 24, 1898, is at home. (8) Alma D., born March 3, 1902, died in 1905. (9) Frank was born April 18, 1906.