

OLIVER C. FRY, of Indiana, Pa., who has been following the occupation of railway mail clerk for the last twenty-three years, was born in Salem township, Westmoreland Co., Pa., Feb. 12, 1850, and is a son of Isaac and Sybillah (Rimel) Fry.

Henry Fry, the great-grandfather of Oliver C. Fry, was born in Bavaria, Germany; whence he brought his wife and children to America, settling in Lancaster county, Pa., prior to the Revolutionary war, in which he took an active part. His old homestead in Lancaster county, where he died, is still standing, and his clock, which he brought from Germany is now a possession of his great-grandson Oliver C Fry. He had two children, Daniel and Andrew.

Andrew Fry, son of Henry, and grandfather of Oliver C. Fry, came to the woods of Westmoreland county with his brother, and in Salem township built a log house, which is still standing. He and his wife Susan were often compelled to take refuge in the old fort at Hannastown when in danger of attack by the Indians. Andrew and Susan Fry died in the old log house which still stands in Salem township. They were the parents of the following children: Peter died unmarried at the old home; Ann, who married John Kebler, is also deceased; Mattie, who married Philip Klingensmith, is deceased; Lovina, who married George Fry, is deceased; Isaac is mentioned below; Betsey, who married Joseph Bush, is deceased; Joseph, deceased, married Sarah Portser; Andrew, deceased, married Mahala Kepple.

Isaac Fry, son of Andrew, and father of Oliver C. fry, was born in 1810 on the home farm, and received but two and a half days' schooling in his life, in the little log schoolhouse which was located five miles from his home, the Indians of that section being so active and so hostile that the early settlers were afraid to send their children away from the protection of their homes. Mr. Fry was reared to agricultural pursuits and on reaching manhood bought a farm situated a half mile from the homestead, where he continued to carry on operations until his death, May 9, 1908. He and his wife, who died May 14, 1905, at the age of eighty-four years, were members of the Lutheran Church, and Mr. fry was a staunch Democrat, serving in various township offices. They had the following children: Christina, who married Thomas Smaley, of Delmont, Pa.; Martha, who married William Walton, of Westmoreland county; Oliver C.; John, deceased, who married Nance Smail; Lucetta, who is unmarried; Calvin, living on the home farm; Jacob, who lives in Pittsburg, married to Elizabeth Elwood; and Jesse, deceased, twin of Jacob.

Oliver C. Fry resided on the home farm until he was seventeen years of age, attending public school at Five Points during the winter months and farming in the summers until he was fifteen and then attending the Millersville state normal school for two years. In the fall of 1875 Mr. Fry came to Indiana and began teaching school at Bairdstown, in the winter season, in the meantime attending the Indiana normal school for six terms. He followed teaching for nineteen years, being engaged sixteen years in White township, and entered the mail service March 1, 1888, being now numbered among the most faithful and trusted employees in that branch.

Mr. Fry was married Sept. 1, 1887, in Indiana, to Myrtle Weston, of Marion Center, Pa., daughter of John and Hannah (Johnston) Weston, and two children have been born to them: Myra, a graduate of the Indiana State normal school; and Bertha, a student in that institution.

Mr. and Mrs. Fry are members of the Lutheran Church, in which he has been an elder for eight years and a teacher in the Sunday school for twenty years. He is a staunch Republican in his political views, and fraternally is connected with Palladium Lodge, No. 346, I.O.O.F, of which he is a past grand. For fifteen years Mr. Fry was a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard, retiring with the rank of first lieutenant.