

PHILANDER CHURCHILL, a leading citizen of Hillsdale and all that part of Indiana county, proprietor of the principal store and postmaster, has been in the general mercantile business there continuously since 1865. he is one of the most successful men of his section, and one of the most highly respected. Mr. Churchill was born march 22, 1832, in Montgomery township, Indiana county, and was an adopted son of John L and Maria (Hazlett) Churchill, the former of whom was from new York, the latter a native of Bellefonte, Pa. John L. Churchill was a shoemaker and farmer. He came to Indiana county in 1831, and later moved West, where he died in 1891. Mrs. Churchill died in 1880 in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania.

Philander Churchill was educated in the public schools. When a young man her was engaged in the manufacture of shoes for eight years. In 1864 he enlisted in the Union army, serving with Company F, 106th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, assisted in building Fort Brady, and later was sent up to Richmond, Va., where he was on guard duty, etc., for five months, being thus engaged until the close of his service. He was mustered out July 1, 1864. having been located with his regiment in the city Hall at Richmond he had the opportunity of meeting many of the noted men of the day, including Lincoln, Grant, Lee and Stanton.

Returning to his home at Hillsdale, in Montgomery township, Indiana co., Pa., he opened the general store in that town, in 1865, which he has ever since carried on, at present commanding a large patronage, drawn from a wide radius of territory around that center. In 1873 he became postmaster at Hillsdale, and with the exception of four hears has held that office continuously since, his efficiency and generally satisfactory service making him a highly desirable incumbent of the position. He has served two terms as secretary of the Montgomery township school board.

Mr. Churchill was united in marriage June 19, 1856, with Elizabeth Rank, daughter of Samuel and Mary Ann Rank, farming people, and they have had a large family, of whom Albert, Edward, Clara Ann (Mrs. Stevens), Jesse D and Bertha are deceased. The six who survive are; (1) Mary Almeda married James Weaver, of Burnshide, Pa., who died leaving five children, Olive, Della, Samuel, Lyle and Herbert. Mrs. Weaver remarried, being now the wife of Wesley Standish, of Brownsville, Oregon. (2) Sarah Frances is the wife of James D. Ake, a farmer at Hillsdale, this county. (3) William T., now engaged in farming in Montgomery township, married Elva Spicher, and they have had five children, of whom Ruth, Edward and Paul survive; John and Elkin are deceased. (4) George R., a dentist, of Indiana, this county, married Ollie Hazlett, who died leaving children, Winona, Donald and Martha. This second marriage took place in October, 1911. (5) Dr. M. E., a dentist, at Arcadia, Indiana county, married Pearl Wissell, of Indiana county. (6) John S. married Maud McElhinny, of Mahaffey, Pa., daughter of James P. and Lora M. McElhinny, and they have one child, Helen Ruth. John S. Churchill works in the store with his father and also conducts a barber business. Of the deceased, bertha married D. Ford Rankin, who was killed by a horse, and later became the wife of James A. Smith. Jesse D., who was a merchant at Cookport, Pa., married Alice Houk, and left two

children, Valjean (who is a clerk in his grandfather Churchill's store) and Ivan (at home); he died March 10, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Philander Churchill have had a married life of over fifty-six years. They are members of the Wesleyan M. E. Church at Hillsdale, which Mr. Churchill formerly served as trustee.