

REV. WILLIAM D. EWING, B. A., a minister of the United Presbyterian Church who, after nearly a half century of labor in the cause of religion, now lives in comfortable retirement on the Gen. James McComb farm, in Center township, Indiana Co., Pa., was born at Irwin Station, in Westmoreland county, pa., Sept. 3, 1836, son of William and Nancy (Currie) Ewing.

Alexander Ewing, his paternal grandfather, was born in Ireland, and when his son William was twelve years old brought the latter on a sailing vessel across the Atlantic ocean, the voyage taking thirteen weeks. They came to western Pennsylvania and settled in Penn township, Westmoreland county, where an uncle, whose name was also William, had previously established himself.

William Ewing was reared from the age of twelve years in Westmoreland county, where both he and father were farmers. He died in 1863, and was buried in the Long Run Church cemetery. Prior to the Civil war he was a Democrat, but afterward voted with the Republican party. He was a reputable citizen and a man of good influence in his community. His first wife, Nancy (Curried), died on the farm in Westmoreland county, the mother of the following children: Alexander; Samuel C., who died in Egypt, while serving there as a missionary; William D.; Mary, who married William Ullum; and John, who now lives retired at Homestead, Pa. William Ewing was subsequently married (second) to Mary Black, who died at Greeley, Colo., the mother of six children, namely: James L., who is a resident of Greeley, Colo.; Jane, who married John Shaw; Sarah, who lives in Greeley, Colo.; Rachel, who is the wife of Rev. Mr. McCurdy, a Presbyterian minister; Joseph Wallace, who lives in Colorado; and Helen, Mrs. Parks.

William D. Ewing's boyhood days were spent on the home farm and he attended the local schools and then the school at Jacksonville, Indiana county, which was under the direction at that time of rev. M. H. Wilson. Following this Mr. Ewing entered Franklin College, in Ohio, where he was graduated in 1861, taking his B. A. degree, and subsequently taught school for several terms. In October, 1862, Mr. Ewing enlisted for service in the Civil war, entering Company K, 168th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and served nine months under Colonel Jack and Capt. J. B. Lauffer. On Sept. 2, 1864, he entered upon a second term of service for one year, going out as first lieutenant of Company E, 206th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel Brady and Captain Brant, and was present at the taking of Richmond, Va. In July, 1865, he was mustered out, at Richmond, Va. During his nineteen months of army service he never lost a day from the ranks on account of illness or from any other cause, and was always ready to perform cheerfully any duty assigned him.

After returning from the war and the close of that part of his life, his thoughts more than ever turned into peaceful channels, and he entered upon the study of theology at the Allegheny United Presbyterian Theological Seminary, being licensed to preach in 1866. He was ordained in February, 1870, and his first charge was the United Presbyterian Church at Centerville, in Butler county, where he continued to serve until 1886. During this time he ministered also to Bethel Church. After retiring from this charge he spent the two years following doing missionary work. In 1888 he was called to the church at Smyrna and remained for twenty years, ministering also to the churches at Mahoning and

Plumville, retiring in 1908, after a long and fruitful pastorate. Although in the evening of life Rev. Mr. Ewing is active in both mind and body and still frequently fills a pulpit and preaches with old-time vigor and conviction. Formerly he was a Republican in his views on public questions, but for some twenty years has supported the Prohibition party, being a zealous advocate of temperance.

On Aug. 30, 1864, William D. Ewing was married to Margaret McComb, daughter of John and Margaret (Calhoun) McComb, and granddaughter of Gen. James McComb.

GEN. JAMES MCCOMB was a native of Ireland, and came from that country to America at the age of eighteen years. For some years afterward he resided in Westmoreland county, Pa., but later settled in center township, Indiana county, on the farm near Jacksonville, where he died in 1814, when aged fifty-six years. During the Revolutionary war he had served as a brigadier general of militia, and also served in the war of 1812. For thirteen years he was a member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature, and was one of the first ruling elders in the Presbyterian Church in his community. He married Mary Jack, who died in 1833, at the age of sixty-nine years, the mother of the following children: George, James, Jane, John, David, Mary, Andrew, Joseph and Nancy (who married James McKee).

John McComb, son of Gen. James McComb, and father of Mrs. William D. Ewing, was born in Center township, Indiana county. Farming was his business through life, and after purchasing the John Dean farm, in center township, a property now owned by Rev. W. D. Ewing, he followed agricultural life there until he removed to Jacksonville. After a few years he returned to the farm for the remainder of his life. He was a member of the United Presbyterian Church at Jacksonville and one of its trustees. He married Margaret Calhoun, who died at Freeport, pa., and was buried by the side of her husband at Jacksonville. They had five children, namely: Jane, who married John Gibson, of Freeport; Nancy; Salina, who married David Farnsworth; James; and Margaret, who married Rev. William D. Ewing.

The following children were born to Rev. William D. Ewing and wife: Margaret Currie died at the age of nine years; Mary Roberta, after being graduated at the Indiana State normal school, adopted teaching as a profession and has taught successfully at Apollo, Karns City, Harrison City and Duquesne, pa.; Alexander is a farmer on the homestead in center township; William McComb, now a practicing attorney residing at Duquesne, Pa., was graduated from Eldersridge Academy and Westminster College, at Wilmington, pa., and is married to Flora Belle Eagley; John Samuel, a farmer in Conemaugh township, married Nannie Hart, and they have two children, James Logan and Margaret Amanda.

ALEXANDER EWING, of the above family, who now occupies the old McComb homestead with his father, was born at Centerville, Butler Co., Pa., March 26, 1873. he was educated in the public schools of Centerville, and in a select school taught by Professor fisher at Plumville. In 1892 he came to his grandfather's old farm of 190 acres, which he operated alone until 1908, when he was joined by his father and they conducted it together until January, 1912, when

a division was made and he now operates 100 acres which was deeded to him by his father, carrying on general farming and stock raising. He married Effiebelle Hamilton, a daughter of Allen Hamilton, and they have three children: William H., James Paul and John Currie. Mr. Ewing is a Progressive Republican and a man of influence in his section. He is one of the trustees of the United Presbyterian Church at Jacksonville.

Rev. Mr. Ewing and his wife are among the best known and most highly esteemed residents of Center township. They have been permitted to enjoy a long life together and have reared a family that reflects credit, on the community. He can look back with a large measure of happiness over his years of fruitful endeavor, knowing that his influence has been beneficial to all with whom the accidents of life have brought him into contact.