

ROBERT McCHESNEY, M. D., deceased, who for many years was a leading physician of Shelocta, Indiana county, was born in Mercer county, Pa., son of John McChesney.

John McChesney was born and reared in Crawford county, Pa. He married Margaret Mahen, and they had the following children: John, who became a physician in Ohio; Nathan, who became a farmer in Mercer county, Pa.; William, who became a physician in Canton, Ohio; Addison, who became a physician in Canton, Ohio; Anderson, who died while in service during the Civil war; Robert, who is mentioned at length below; Eliza, who married Jackson Williams; and Margaret, who married a Mr. Edwards and died in Jamestown, Pennsylvania.

Robert McChesney attended the Allegheny College, at Meadville, Pa., and afterward took his medical course at the Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati, some years later taking a post-graduate course at Rush Medical College, Chicago. In 1843 he moved to Shelocta, Armstrong township, Indiana Co., Pa., where he commenced the practice of his profession. His circle of patients was scattered over an area of twenty miles radius, and he rode horseback over his territory. Dr. McChesney became a well-known figure in his locality, and was greatly beloved. A great reader, he owned a fine library, containing all the leading medical works of his time. He was actively interested in township affairs and served as burgess of Shelocta and assessor of the township. Earlier in life he was a Democrat, but later became a Republican. He rounded out a long and useful life, dying Nov. 27, 1899, aged eighty-two years.

Dr. Robert McChesney married Isabel Carson, who died in October, 1893, aged seventy-six years. Both were buried in the cemetery in Armstrong township. Their children were: Laura Jane, who died in childhood; John N., who is a dentist of Chicago; William A., who is mentioned below; Adaline; and Mary Elizabeth, who married Dr. A. C. McChesney, and lives in Chicago.

Dr. William Alexander McChesney was born in the borough of Shelocta Oct. 27, 1851, and for many years was a physician and surgeon of Indiana county, but is now retired from active practice. He attended the local schools and Eldersridge academy, after which he took a collegiate course at Westminster. Having decided upon a medical career, he took a course at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Cincinnati, Ohio (which is now incorporated in the University of Cincinnati), and following his graduation he took up the practice of medicine with his father in Shelocta, and continued in the same until his retirement. For many years he has been a censor of the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia. Dr. McChesney is now interested in the conduct of a fine 225-acre farm.

Dr. McChesney married Carrie Curtis Peelor, who died leaving no issue. For many years Dr. McChesney has been very active in the Presbyterian Church, of which he is now an elder. He has served as a school director and burgess of Shelocta, and bore his part in the general advancement of his community. Dr. McChesney belongs to the medical societies of the county and State, and has an unsullied record as a skillful and conscientious medical man.