

ROSS S. FLEMING, a resident of Armstrong township, Indiana county, belongs to an old settled family of this part of Pennsylvania. His great-grandfather, Thomas Fleming, was born in Huntingdon county, this State, and his wife, Bettie (Martin), was a native of Ireland, coming to the United States with her parents when a little girl. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fleming were both of Scotch-Irish parentage. In 1818 he settled in Indiana county. He was a farmer by occupation.

James Fleming, son of Thomas, lived in Indiana county among the early settlers. He was a machinist by trade, engaged in farming to some extent, and also in the flour milling business, being a part owner of the first flour mill in Armstrong county. During the sixties, at the time of the Morgan raid, he was a member of the Pennsylvania militia. His children were: Elizabeth A., wife of David Hill; John; Thomas; James G.; William; May A., wife of Israel Thomas; and Charlotte, wife of George Cline, The father of this family died in 1891, the mother surviving until 1902; she was ninety-two years old. They were members of the Presbyterian Church.

William Fleming, father of Ross S. Fleming, was born Jan. 6, 1839, at Woodward's Mill, in Armstrong county, and attended the common school in the vicinity. Then he went to Huntingdon county, Pa., and engaged in farming at the foot of the planes. Moving to Armstrong township, Indiana county, he bought the W. D. Anthony farm in 1866, a piece of property containing 160 acres located on Anthony's run, and followed farming on that place for about fifteen years. In 1881 he purchased the R. H. Armstrong farm and home, where he resided from that time until his death. The house was a substantial dwelling, erected in 1861, and Mr. Fleming made extensive improvements on the farm of 150 acres during his ownership, keeping the property in fine condition. He engaged in general agriculture and extensively interested in the raising of cattle. He was an energetic man, alive to the needs of the community as well as enterprising in the care of his own interests, and held various local offices, serving as overseer of the poor, supervisor and member of the election board. In political connection he was a Democrat, but he was an ardent Union sympathizer during the Civil war, in which he served under three enlistments—Aug. 7, 1862, in Company I, 135th Pennsylvania Regiment, Capt. John A. Kinters (discharged May 24, 1863); July 1, 1863, in Company C, 57th Pennsylvania Regiment; and Aug. 22, 1863, in Company H, 206th Pennsylvania Regiment, Capt. Joseph C. Greer (discharged June 1, 1865). He was present at Richmond when Lee surrendered, and afterward went to Venango county, Pa., spending about one year in the oil fields, and then returning to Armstrong township, Indiana county.

On Oct. 4, 1866, Mr. Fleming married Sarah E. Anthony, daughter of John and Elizabeth (McKnight) Anthony, of Armstrong township (she is a cousin of Dr. W. J. McKnight, author of the "Pioneer Outline History of Northwestern Pennsylvania"). Mrs. Fleming continues to reside on the homestead place. Mr. Fleming died Dec. 10, 1900, at the "Henry Hotel," Pittsburg, Pa., while on a business trip, and is buried in the Oakland cemetery in Indiana, where a fine monument has been erected to his memory. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. William Fleming, Frank, Ross S. and Paul M. Frank married Lizzie

Calhoun, daughter of James and Mary (Blakley) Calhoun, and now resides at Denver, Colo., where he is engaged in business as a contractor and builder. Paul M., born Aug. 31, 1866, is living at Kiefer, Okla., and is engaged in the oil fields.

Ross S. Fleming was born June 2, 1883, in Armstrong township, Indiana county, and there began his education in public school, later attending a select school at Shelocta, this county. He was brought up like the average farmer's boy, and although not actively engaged in agricultural lines now has his practical knowledge of arming and farmers' needs has proved highly useful. He is traveling salesman for the James manufacturing Company, of Fort Atkinson, Wis., manufacturers of sanitary dairy fixtures, etc. His territory is in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland and southern New York.

On June 20, 1907, Mr. Fleming married Abbie Jane Miller, daughter of Moses B. and Rachel (Mangus) Miller, of Armstrong township, and his mother resides with them, Mr. Fleming having one of the finest homes in Armstrong township, the old home place of his parents. He owns a tract of 150 acres, his father's old farm, which he rents, giving all his time to business matters.