

SAMUEL H. NOWRY, deceased, eldest son of James and Mary (Marshall) Nowry, pioneer settlers of Blacklegs creek, Conemaugh township, was born May 3, 1812. HE received his education in the public schools of said township, and under private tutors. At the age of eighteen he taught his first school, in a primitive schoolhouse located near the election house at the junction of Scrubgrass run and Blacklegs creek, after which school term he remained at home with his father for a period of three years, helping to prepare the brick and erect the present brick homestead, now known as the old Nowry homestead, on the State road. All the while he was studying for his much loved vocation, that of a teacher in the public school. He began teaching again at the age of twenty-two, and taught twenty years without intermission. In the meantime he had saved enough money from his scanty wages as a teacher to purchase the farm in Conemaugh township on which Nowrytown is now located. He then retired from his chosen profession and took up farm life in addition to participating in local politics, being a staunch Democrat. He was a township officer almost continuously for ten years. Being a firm believer in the axiom that "the only sure investment on earth is in earth," he purchased two additional farms in Conemaugh township, the one known as the Walkinshaw farm and later part of the D. S. Gailey homestead, the other known as the Lyons farm, now owned by William Schmidt. Having now arrived at the age of fifty, and believing he had the wherewithal to furnish a home and rear a family, he hied himself to an adjoining county and formed an alliance with a daughter of a pioneer settler of Armstrong county, William Crawford, of near Olivet. Samuel H. Nowry and Elizabeth Crawford were married by Rev. Alexander Donnelson, March 26, 1862, and went to housekeeping on the farm on which Nowrytown is located. There were three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Nowry, one son and two daughters: Albert and Martha B., twins, born May 18, 1864, and Rebecca M., born June 8, 1866. Albert Nowry, son of Samuel, still resides on a part of the old homestead, and has a family of seven children. Martha B., married to John N. Arnold, is chronicled with the Arnold family: Rebecca M. married John C. Lahl, of Lorain, Ohio, and has no children.

In the year Foster coal mines first opened when people were coming over from England to engage in the mining industry, they being of the best class of Christian people and wanting to buy land and erect new homes, Mr. Nowry as a public-spirited man volunteered to sell fifty acres of his farm in lots to them, that they might erect houses and raise their families away from the degrading influences of the pit mouth. He was rewarded by having the settlement named Nowrytown to perpetuate his memory.

Samuel H. Nowry died June 6, 1887, and is interred in Edgewood cemetery at Saltsburg, Pennsylvania. His wife, Elizabeth, died April 4, 1897, and is interred beside her husband.