

SAMUEL J. ROBINSON, superintendent of the Bowman Coal Mining Company, at Saltsburg, Indiana Co., Pa., is a native of that place, born July 17, 1861, a son of David and Nancy J. (Galbraith) Robinson. He is a member of one of the oldest pioneer families of Indiana county.

Robert Robinson, the founder of the family in America, was born at Mahara, County Antrim, Ireland, in 1739, and was there married in 1769 to Rachel Wier, who was also a native of that county, born in 1738. They came to America in 1770 with Mr. Robinson's father, mother, two brothers and two sisters, landing at Philadelphia in July of that year, and subsequently moving to Marietta, Pa., later to Harrisburg. The father died at Lancaster, and was buried there, and the mother passed away in Dauphin county, and was buried at Derry Church. Robert Robinson was a mason by occupation, and helped build the "John Harris House," afterward known as the "Cameron House." He moved with his family to Conococheague (Conikakig) Creek, in Franklin county, where he helped to construct a mill, which was later used as a tub factory. About 1777 Mr. Robinson located in Westmoreland county, at what was known as Big Sewickley, where the family lived for several years, later moving to Armstrong township, near the mouth of Lick run, on lands called "York." Here they built a home and cleared up the land and carried on farming until 1820, when they went to the home of the eldest son, John Robinson, who had a farm on the Iconium lands, and there the parents spent the remainder of their days. Robert Robinson died June 23, 1836, of palsy, at the ripe age of ninety-seven years, and was buried in the Robinson River Hill cemetery. His wife passed away thirteen years previous, Oct. 31, 1823, at the age of eighty-five, and was buried in the same cemetery. Their children were: John, born April 6, 1772, died April 25, 1856; Elizabeth, born April 17, 1775, married Thomas Wier, and died in Allegheny county Sept. 6, 1862; James, born June 30, 1777, died in 1803; Robert was born Aug. 14, 1780.

Robert Robinson (2), son of Robert, was born at Big Sewickley, Westmoreland Co., Pa., Aug. 14, 1780, and became a farmer of Conemaugh township, Indiana county, where he made his home all of his life. He died Nov. 17, 1833, and was laid to rest in Edgewood cemetery. He married Elizabeth Black, the ceremony being performed by Rev. J. W. Henderson, and she lived to the ripe old age of eighty-nine years, passing away Jan. 10, 1874, and was laid to rest beside her husband in Edgewood cemetery. She was a daughter of James Black, who was a Revolutionary soldier and one of the pioneers of what is now Indiana county. Robert and Elizabeth (Black) Robinson had the following children: James B., who married Eliza Barnett; Robert S., who married Eleanor Walahan; John H; Thomas W., who married Elizabeth Johnson; Johnston S.; William C., who married Margaret Robinson (second) Jane Tice and (third) Sally A. Wagner; Jane B.; David, and Elizabeth.

Johnston S. Robinson, son of Robert Robinson (2), and grandfather of Samuel J. Robinson, was born in Conemaugh township, Indiana Co., Pa., and there grew to manhood. He removed to Saltsburg in 1832, and there learned the trades of chairmaker and painter, following those callings until 1853, at which time, with his son David S., he became engaged in the drug business at Saltsburg, continuing his connection therewith up to the time of his death, in

1888. He was buried in the cemetery at Saltsburg. Johnston S. Robinson was one of his community's highly respected citizens, and was the incumbent of a number of public offices, serving as postmaster of Saltsburg from the beginning of the Civil war up to 1869. He was married in 1836 to Sarah S. Shryock, daughter of David Shrock, a pioneer settler of Salem township, Westmoreland county, and they had two children, David S. and Anna E.

David S. Robinson, son of Johnston S. Robinson and father of Samuel J. Robinson, was born in Saltsburg, Pa., where he received his education. At an early age he became associated with his father in the drug business at that place, the association continuing until his father's death. He was also one of the early coal operators in the vicinity of Saltsburg, having been connected with the Fairbanks & Foster mines as general manager from 1878 to 1892. He established the Saltsburg Bank, of which he was one of the owners and cashier, but eventually disposed of his interests in Saltsburg and removed to Pittsburg, where he became secretary of Homewood Cemetery Association. He continued to his death, in August, 1907, when he was laid to rest in Saltsburg cemetery. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Saltsburg, was a Republican in politics, and was fraternally connected with the Lodge, Chapter, Council and Knights Templar degrees of Masonry, at Greensburg; he was a member of the Pittsburg Shrine. Mr. Robinson was married to Nancy J. Galbraith, daughter of Samuel and Martha (Kerr) Galbraith, of Hollidaysburg, Pa., and they had only one child, Samuel J. Mrs. Robinson still survives, and is residing at the home of her son in Saltsburg, where she removed after Mr. Robinson's death.

Samuel J. Robinson was given ordinary educational advantages, first attending public school at Saltsburg, and then becoming a student at Saltsburg Academy. Immediately thereafter he became a clerk in his father's bank, in which he was engaged for several years, and subsequently became connected with other of his father's business ventures until 1900, when he became interested in and superintendent of the Bowman Coal Mining Company, miners and shippers of bituminous coal, whose mines are at Saltsburg. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, to which his wife also belongs. His only fraternal connection is with Williamson Lodge, No. 431. F. & A. M., of Saltsburg.

Mr. Robinson married Jean E. Thompson, of Blairsville, Pa. They have had no children.