

SAMUEL WILSON EVANS, deceased, was born in Brushvalley township, this county, in March, 1839, a son of William Evans.

Hugh Evans, his grandfather, was born in Wales, and came to the United States in early manhood on the same vessel as his future wife although when they set out on the voyage there were not acquainted. Owing to a crippling of the crew on account of severe storms, the passengers were pressed into the service, and during the many weeks of the passage friendships were formed which in one case at least deepened into love. Hugh Evans married his fair fellow passenger and they settled in Brushvalley township, Indiana Co., Pa., where he became a heavy land owner. In addition to looking after his land he built a flourmill, manufactured woolen goods, and was a lumberman, operating his large interests profitably and developing into one of the dominant men of his time and locality.

As his sons grew older he gave them farms. He died greatly respected by all who knew him. The children of his first marriage were: Hugh, Evan, James, John, William, Ann, Mary and Elisabeth. After the mother died he married Hettie Cresswell, by whom he had Ellen, Rebecca and Lucy (wife of Rev. A. B. Runyan).

William A. Evans, father of Samuel W. Evans, spent the greater portion of his life on the property given him by his father, comprising a portion of the homestead in Brushvalley township. A man of principle, he was a pioneer in prohibiting the use of whiskey at any gathering of men at his home, when it was the general custom to serve whiskey to all workers, and when on raising his barn he made known to the men his principle they at first refused to go on with the work, but when they understood that it was withheld on account of conscientious scruples they good-naturedly went ahead, honoring him for this proof of his strength of character. In 1833 or 1834 he married Susan Wilkins, a woman of scotch-Irish descent, also a native of Brushvalley township, and to them were born the following children: John, a surgeon in Company H, 12<sup>th</sup> regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Civil war, who afterward practiced medicine in Homer City until his death; Andrew Wilkins, who died at his home at Washington, D. C., in 1911; Samuel W.; William A., who lives at Reed station; Mrs. Nancy Rhodes, deceased; Mrs. Sue McCormick, of Indiana; Elisabeth, who died in early life; and George, who resided until his death on a farm which is the present site of Lucerne, this county.

Samuel Wilson Evans grew to manhood in Brushvalley township, and was engaged in farming when President Lincoln issued his first call for troops, to which he responded by enlisting in a company made up of boys from Brushvalley and Wheatfield township, under Captain Bolar. They were assigned to the 12<sup>th</sup> P.V.I., and he served three years. At the close of the war he returned to his farm in Brushvalley, where he lived until within a few years of his death, finally retiring to Indiana, Pa., where he passed away Sept. 26, 1908.

On Oct. 27, 1874, Mr. Evans married Sarah Elliott, a native of Armagh, Indiana county. From boyhood, Mr. Evans was a Presbyterian, and he always gave that congregation loyal and generous support. Politically he was a staunch Republican, as were many of the men who risked their lives in fighting for the principles upon which the Republican party was founded, but he did not care for

public office. Joining G.A.R. Post No. 144, of Mechanicsburg, he took great pleasure in meeting his old comrades, and by them was made commander of the post, which office he held for years. He and his wife became the parents of three children: Margaret, Nellie and Mary. A man of principle, Mr. Evans always lived up to his convictions of right and wrong. The name of Evans is linked with much of the history of Indiana county, and its representatives have ever been found worthy of their name.