

THOMAS CRAVEN, one of the oldest residents of Indiana county, a veteran of the Civil war, and owner of 170 acres of land in White township, was born in Rayne township, this county, July 20, 1826, son of Nathaniel Simpson Craven.

Thomas Craven, the grandfather, married twice, his second wife being a Miss Simpson and she was the grandmother of Thomas Craven.

Nathaniel Simpson Craven was born in Cherryhill township, this county, in 1806, and died in Canoe township. He was a farmer all his life. His wife, Rebecca (Pollock), was a native of County Derry, Ireland, and children as follows were born to this marriage; Thomas; Martha, who married William Mitchell; Robert, who married Sarah Jovant after going to some Western State; Rebecca, who married David Mitchell; and David, Lucinda and Jane all of whom died in infancy.

Thomas Craven was educated in the schools of his neighborhood, and when still a lad began lumbering and did considerable rafting on the river. In the summer months he worked at farming. Believing that it was his duty to defend his country, he enlisted in Company A, 206<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, in 1864, and served until the close of the war, having been an able and efficient soldier.

In 1881 Mr. Craven married Martha Coltabaugh, who was born Sept. 29, 1847, in Duncansville, Pa., a daughter of George and Margaret (Bertnette) Coltabaugh. After marriage Mr. Craven located in Washington township, but later bought his present farm, where he has since resided. The large coal and coke industries of Ernest are located on land which was formerly attached to his place. He is a heavy stockholder in the company controlling these holdings, and their present development is largely due to his business enterprise.

Mr. and Mrs. Craven have had the following children: Annie M., living with her parents; Aaron, who married Mary Hinton, and is living in White township; and Catherine, at home. Mr. Craven is independent in his political views, believing in electing good men to office without regard to party ties. He is very liberal in his religious ideas, realizing that each man must work out his own plan of salvation. Having always been a man of prominence in his community, he has taken part in many public affairs, and has always maintained the full confidence and respect of his associates.