

THOMAS SEWARD LYNN, best known as Squire Lynn, is one of the most prominent residents of West Wheatfield township, Indiana county. He has been justice of the peace for over twenty years, is a prosperous farmer, and a leading member of the English Lutheran Church.

Squire Lynn is a member of the fourth generation of his family in this country, his great-grandfather, John Lynn, a native of England, having been the first of his paternal ancestors to come to this country. He emigrated from Ireland, in 1750, and first settled in New Jersey. By trade he was a tailor, but after taking up his residence in that State followed farming. Subsequently he moved to Hollidaysburg, Blair Co., Pennsylvania.

Robert Lynn, son of John Lynn, was the grandfather of Thomas Seward Lynn. He was born at Hollidaysburg in 1789, and followed in the footsteps of his father in choosing farming as a means of livelihood. About the year 1812 he was married to Rebecca Thompson, and it was about that time also that he settled in Buffington township, Indiana county. About the year 1825 he purchased a large timber tract in West Wheatfield township, lying near what is now the town of Garfield, and here he erected a two-story log house and a log barn, cleared the land, and built a waterpower sawmill in which he manufactured lumber, and which he and his sons conducted up to the time of his death. Mr. Lynn, though he never held office, became a prominent citizen of West Wheatfield and was highly respected. He attended the M. E. Church, and was a Democrat in politics. He was laid to rest in the old Bolivar cemetery in Westmoreland county. His family consisted of seven sons and two daughters, namely: (1) Eliza, born in 1814, married Christopher Robinson. (2) Thompson, born in 1816, married Margaret Alexandre in 1845. (3) Smith, born Oct. 9, 1823, married Elizabeth Robinson of West Wheatfield, Oct. 9, 1848, and died in 1904. he was a farmer and teamster. (4) John is mentioned fully below. (5) Sarah, born in 1829, is the widow of Elliott Robinson (brother of Christopher and Elizabeth, just mentioned), whom she married in 1848. He was a local M. E. minister, farmer and brick manufacturer near Bolivar. She resides in West Wheatfield near the brick works. (6) Austin, born in 1831, died Dec. 27, 1899, a farmer in Center township, married Rebecca Hammond. (7) Elliott, born in 1833, a carpenter, lives in the West. (8) Samuel was born in 1835. In October, 1864, while serving in the Civil war as a member of Company F, 52d Regiment, Indiana State Volunteers, he received a wound at Salem which caused his death. (9) Robert Thompson, born in 1844, married Margaret Housholder, of Burrell township. He was station master at Millwood, Westmoreland county, for many years, for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and now has charge of the coal tipple at the same place for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. On June 25, 1863, he enlisted in Company D, 54th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, under Capt. John H. Deeves, for ninety days, and took part in the pursuit of Morgan in his celebrated raid through Ohio and Kentucky. Lee's army having been driven south of the Potomac and Morgan captured, the services of the regiment were no longer required, and it was mustered out Aug. 17, 1863. Mr. Lynn reenlisted on Sept. 4, 1864, for one year, in Battery F, 5th Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, under Capt. Francis C. Flanagan and Col. George G. Gallup. Soon after its organization the regiment

was ordered to Washington and assigned to duty in forts north of the capitol. On Sept. 38th the regiment, while guarding a construction train on the Manassas Gap railroad, was attacked by Moseby's command in Virginia. Mr. Lynn was discharged by telegraphic order from the war department June 2, 1865, at Salem.

John Lynn, son of Robert, was born July 5, 1827, and when a boy attended the Lynn log district school in West Wheatfield; although he went to school only a short time he became a very fine penman, using the old-fashioned quill, and was good in "mathematics." He worked with his father until he was grown, and when a young man worked as brakeman on the Pennsylvania canal. Then he bought from his father a 100-acre tract, part of the original homestead, and there he settled and reared his family. Like his father he built a sawmill on the north branch of Richards run, and conducted it for many years, in connection with farming, lumbering and teaming; he was also a well-known stock breeder of his district. Hard-working, thrifty, intelligent and energetic, he was a force for progress in the township that was felt in every phase of local life, though he did not seek public office, and many of the most valuable improvements of his day owed their success to his influence. He was one of the founders, builders and stockholders in having the bridge over the Conemaugh river constructed, from West Wheatfield in Bolivar. In politics he was a staunch Republican. He was advocate of temperance, a member of the Lutheran Church, which he served as deacon or elder, and Sunday school teacher, and did his duty in every relation of life. He made his home in West Wheatfield all his life.

On Dec. 21, 1854, Mr. Lynn married Catherine Mikesell, who was born March 25, 1832, in Burrell township, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Barr) Mikesell, and now resides in New Florence, Westmoreland county, with her son Cornelius and daughter Margaret. Mr. Lynn died March 6, 1882, at the age of fifty-five years, and was interred in the Lutheran cemetery in West Wheatfield. Children as follows were born to this union: Emma, born Feb. 6, 1856, is the widow of Christopher Campbell, and now resides in Johnstown, Pa.; Margaret Agnes, a music teacher, resides with her mother at New Florence, Pa.; Cornelius D., born Jan. 29, 1859, a music teacher, at present engaged as traveling salesman, resides with his mother at New Florence, Pa. (he was general secretary of the Y.M.C.A. for about ten years); Samuel Barr, born Jan. 20, 1863, died Sept. 27, 1863; Sarah Jane, born Aug. 15, 1880, died Dec. 27, 1871; Thomas Seward is mentioned below; Delilah Catherine, born in 1866, is the widow of George Butler, and now resides in Johnstown (Mr. Butler was employed by the Cambria Iron and Steel Co., of Johnstown, and was also a farmer); Ulysses Simeon, born Dec. 22, 1868, married Viola Wakefield (he is a farmer and had been employed by the Robinson Brick Company in West Wheatfield); Estella Maud, born May 31, 1872, married Samuel Stevens, who is a traveling salesman, and lives in Johnstown; Edward Vincent, born Nov. 28, 1874, died July 16, 1880.

Thomas Seward Lynn, son of John and Catherine (Mikesell) Lynn, was born Sept. 23, 1884, in West Wheatfield township, on the farm near Garfield which was part of his grandfather's old homestead. In 1873 he moved with his

family to the farm, where he has ever since resided. In 1905 he bought sixty acres of the original tract, and there erected his buildings. He attended the Washington district school under the tuition of Prof. J. T. Stewart and Professor Campbell, and also studied at a select summer school, and taught school for a few years, finishing a half term for Professor Campbell in Armagh. When he was only fourteen years old his father had a paralytic stroke, so the boy was obliged to take his father's place, and though so young managed to run the farm, he and his brother Simeon working together. At nights he studied civil engineering, taking a course in the Scranton international Correspondence Schools. When the coal companies began their activities in this section, buying the coal rights, Squire Lynn did a great deal of the surveying in his own and near-by townships, and in this way made enough money to build (in 1905) his large and up-to-date house and barn, which are located on the pike, the old stage road between Philadelphia and Pittsburg. His property, which now comprises sixty acres, is one of the best kept farms in the township; it was known at one time as the Adam Sides farm. He is a practical modern farmer and stock raiser, and his creditable success is entirely the result of his own efforts. He has taken an active part in local affairs, having been a justice of the peace for over twenty-two years—first elected in 1890. he was census enumerator in 1910. He is a leading member of the English Lutheran Church of West Wheatfield, which he has served as deacon, treasurer, and superintendent of the Sunday school, is an advocate of temperance and lives up to his principles.

Squire Lynn was married May 28, 1891, to Priscilla Jane Mack, daughter of George and Martha (McDonald) Mack, of East Wheatfield township, and they are the parents of four children: Paul Wendel, born Nov. 6, 1893, in West Wheatfield; Edith Mae, born Aug. 15, 1895; Margaretta Kathryne, born July 10, 1898; and Kermit Dean, born July 8, 1907.