

WILLIAM BAXTER CRAWFORD, owner of over six hundred acres of improved land in Young township, is the leading agriculturist of his part of Indiana county and also has extensive interests in other lines, being a man of all-around business ability and remarkable enterprise. He has done threshing in Indiana county and adjoining sections of Armstrong and Westmoreland counties for the last forty years, and for thirty years has carried on the manufacture of lumber, in both Indiana and Armstrong counties. Mr. Crawford was born in Young township Sept. 22, 1855. William Crawford, his grandfather, was a pioneer settler in the Eldersridge section of that township, where he became the owner of a tract of four hundred acres, on part of which land the mining town of Iselin now stands. He followed farming and spent his life there, dying on his farm, and is buried in the Ebenezer cemetery. He was of Scotch extraction and a member of the Presbyterian Church. His wife, whose maiden name was McDowell, also died on the farm and was buried in Ebenezer cemetery. Their children were: Ann, who married James Clemens and lived in Allegheny county, Pa.; Isabelle, who married Daniel Shearer; Sarah Jane; Matthew, who lived in Armstrong county; James; and John, who died in the West.

James Crawford, son of William, was born near Eldersridge in young township, and there attended public school. At an early age he began work on the construction of the Pennsylvania canal, and also engaged in other lines, eventually settling down to farming in Conemaugh township, this county, on a 128 acre tract near Clarksburg. He devoted his time to general farming and stock raising and passed the remainder of his long life on that place, dying there at the age of eighty-three years, eleven months, twenty-three days. He was a member of the United Presbyterian Church, and is buried in the U. P. cemetery at Olivet, Armstrong county. In politics he was originally a Whig, later a Republican. Mr. Crawford married Jane Baxter, who was born in Allegheny county, Pa., daughter of William Baxter and sister of William Baxter, prominent oil operator in his day and well known in both Indiana and Armstrong counties. Mrs. Crawford died at the homestead and is buried in the same cemetery as her husband. Six children were born to their union: Mary Jane, who is on the old homestead; William Baxter; John, now a resident of Pittsburg, in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company; Nancy, who married Frank Gordon; James, who is on the old homestead; and Sarah Belle, on the old homestead.

William Baxter Crawford was allowed the advantages of schools near his home afforded, and until he reached the age of twenty did farm work on the home place for his father. He then began threshing on his own account, being one of the first in this region to follow that line on the plan now generally adopted. He began with a three-horsepower machine, and as he became able to improve his equipment came to own an eight-horsepower outfit, and since he commenced to use steam power has had five engines. His work has taken him all over Young, Conemaugh and Armstrong townships, in Indiana county, and into Armstrong and Westmoreland counties, and he has always commanded a large patronage; his sons now assist him in this business. For seven years in his early manhood Mr. Crawford worked with his uncle William Baxter in the oil fields of Clarion county, Pa., drilling, pumping and gauging. In 1879 he settled down to

farming on the Matthew Crawford place, neat what is now Iselin, and he has added to his farming property steadily since then, having bought other land in the township until he now owns and operates over six hundred acres. His purchases include the old Robert Elder homestead, a tract of 125 acres; the T. C. Watson farm, and the McCombs farm. All these properties have been greatly improved with buildings, fences, etc., during his ownership, his thrifty management and good judgment being apparent in the substantial nature of all the building he has had done and the careful attention to detail in evidence everywhere on his holdings. He also continues the manufacture of lumber, in which he has been interested for thirty years. There is no more progressive man in the locality, and he has not only been active in promoting his own interests but influential in encouraging every movement for the general good, his support being for the benefit of the community. Though a Republican in political sentiment he is independent in his advocacy of measures and his support of candidates for public position.

On June 6, 1878, Mr. Crawford married Mattie J. Dunmire, of Maysville, Armstrong Co., Pa., daughter of Andrew Dunmire. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. C. Telford. Four children were born to this marriage: Oliver Rowland, born Jan. 29, 1879, who remained on the homestead, and died April 29, 1908; James Carl, born Oct. 28, 1881, at home; Andrew Claude, born Aug. 28, 1887, who is at home; and William Baxter, Jr., born Aug. 13, 1889, at home. The mother died May 19, 1890. On Jan. 11, 1894, Mr. Crawford was married, by Rev. S. A. Hughes, of Bethel Church, in Center township, Indiana county, Annie M. George, a native of Center township, daughter of Walter Bates George, of that township, full mention of whose family will be found elsewhere in this work. They have had one child, Walter Hamilton, born July 8, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford and their children are members of the Presbyterian Church at Eldersridge. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow and Mason (Lodge No. 431, F. & A. M.), belonging to the lodges at Saltsburg, this county.