

WILLIAM E. OAKES has an extensive lumber business at Clymer, Indiana county, where he has been settled practically since the town was founded. He was born April 14, 1867, near Blairsville, this county, son of John G. and Sarah (Kauffman) Oakes.

Edward Oakes, his grandfather, was from Ireland, as was also his wife. They came to Pennsylvania in 1794, first settling near Armagh, Indiana county, and later moving to Burrell township, same county, near Blairsville. Edward Oakes was a soldier in the war of 1812 and also in the Mexican war. He was killed near his home, by a falling tree.

John G. Oakes, father of William E. Oakes, was born in 1832 in Blairsville. He was a farmer in his early days. In 1864 he enlisted in the Union army for service in the Civil war, becoming a member of Battery K, 2d Pennsylvania Regiment, and serving until mustered out, in January, 1866. At the battle of the Wilderness he was wounded and captured, being taken to Libby prison, where he was held for nine months. After his discharge he returned to Blairsville, and thence moved to the West, where he passed the brief remainder of his life, dying in October, 1867, near Iola, Kansas. Mr. Oakes married Sarah Kauffman, who was born in 1839 in Johnstown, Pa., and whose parents, Jonas and Sarah Kauffman, were natives of Switzerland. Three children were born to this marriage: F. J., the eldest, resides in Fall River, Kans.; Jennie is the wife of J. E. Williams, of Johnstown; William E. is mentioned below.

William E. Oakes attended public school near Blairsville. His first work was on a farm in Kansas. He learned the carpenter's trade in Johnstown, Pa., and followed it there for fifteen years, in 1898 starting in business at Conemaugh, this county, where he still has interests. In 1904 he came to Lovejoy, Indiana county, and thence shortly afterward to Clymer, when the town had just made a start as such. He has been engaged in the lumber trade ever since he settled there, and has built up a lucrative business, being regarded as one of the active and progressive residents of the place. He is very well known in fraternal connection, being a member of Indiana Lodge, B.P.O. Elks, and a high Mason, belonging to Cambria Lodge, F. & A. M., of Johnstown (of which he is a past master), to the Consistory at Williamsport and to the Shrine at Altoona.

On Jan. 28, 1890, Mr. Oakes was married, at Johnstown, Pa., to Emma R. Devlin, a native of Johnstown, daughter of Theodore and Lydia Devlin. Mrs. Oakes died Aug. 13, 1911. She was the mother of ten children, namely; Clifford, now residing at Dixonville, this county, who married Ellen Clawson and has two children; Theodore; Earl; Ruth; Carrie; Carroll; Frank; Bessie; Agnes, and Olive.