

WILLIAM HARRISON EMPFIELD, who is now living retired in Brushvalley township, Indiana county, where for years he was engaged in farming and storekeeping, is a native of White township, Indiana county, born April 19, 1837. The family is of German extraction.

Peter Empfield, his father, was a native of eastern Pennsylvania and came to what is now Cherryhill township, Indiana county, where he followed his trade of carpenter and millwright. He did such work in many sections of Indiana county, and his later years were spent among his children, who cared for their parents in their old age. Mr. Empfield died in Cherryhill township in 1872, aged eighty-four years, and was buried in the Lutheran Church cemetery. He was twice married, and by his first wife, whose name is not known, had three children: Margaret, who married, John Coy; George, and John. His second marriage was to Mary Hart, and their children were: Isaac, now deceased; Nancy, who married Henry Wike, of Pine township; Sarah, who married Cyrus Dumm; Alexander, who died in Missouri; Henry, living in Missouri; Simon, deceased; Martha, deceased, who married John Green; William Harrison; and Caroline, who died unmarried. Their mother died while living with her children and is buried in the Lutheran cemetery in Brushvalley.

William Harrison Empfield was born at Edgy Mill, in White township, and attended school in Pine and Cherryhill townships. Beginning work on the farm in early boyhood, he continued thus until 1861, when he enlisted on July 8th, in Company B, 11th Pennsylvania Reserves, under Col. Thomas F. Gallagher and Capt. Daniel S. Porter (who was later promoted to lieutenant colonel, Capt. H. K. Sloan succeeding him as captain). He participated in the seven days' fight and second Bull Run, on Aug. 29-30, where Mr. Empfield was struck by a shell in the back of the head, carrying the evidence of his injuries to the present. He was taken prisoner on the field and after nine days was paroled by the Rebels. Then he was sent to Carver hospital at Washington, and was discharged Aug. 25, 1862, for disability. Returning home to Cherryhill township he again took up farming after regaining his health, and he also engaged in the making of shooks for barrels at Nolo, in pine township, and in Cherryhill and Buffington townships. He carried on that kind of work for over seven years. Later he settled in Brushvalley township on a fifty-acre tract of land, where he became engaged in farming for himself, and he has been farming and raising stock continuously ever since. He has been located on several different farms during that period, in 1889 buying his present place in Brushvalley township, where he built the house and made other improvements. Meantime he also became interested in the mercantile business, which he conducted for some years and which is now carried on by his sons. Mr. Empfield is a good citizen in every sense of the term. In politics he is a republican, but he takes no active part in the work of the party.

On April 16, 1863, Mr. Empfield married in pine township, Margaret Irwin, a native of Conemaugh township, Indiana county, daughter of John and Catherine (Bank) Irwin. Mr. and Mrs. Empfield have had a family of nine children: Mary Catherine, born May 5, 1864, died July 24, 1866; William Nelson was born June 18, 1866; Elizabeth, born July 24, 1868, married Peter J. Bowers, of Buffington township; Sarah Gertrude, born Jan. 1, 1871, married Sutton H.

Murdock, and died Sept. 23, 1903; John Irwin, born July 24, 1873, a farmer of Buffington township, married May Findly, of Vintondale, Pa.; Altazora, born Sept. 26, 1875, married Alexander C. Hoover, and resides in Brushvalley township; Harry Banks, born April 19, 1878, who now conducts the general store, married Vivian cribs, of Tuscarawas, Ohio; Jennie belle, born April 9, 1880, married Alex G. Murdock; Myrtle married Harry C. Mikesell, of Buffington township, Indiana county. Mr. and Mrs. Empfield have twenty-nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

William Nelson Empfield, eldest son of William Harrison, was born in Cherryhill township, Indiana county, June 18, 1866, and was educated in the public schools of Brushvalley and Buffington townships. He worked at home with his parents until he reached manhood, when he went West to Painesville, Ohio, and there did carpenter work, receiving \$2.25 a day. Later he had charge of construction and of the docks at Grand River, and was subsequently with the Penn & Lake Erie Dock Company for twelve years as superintendent, after which he accepted the position of superintendent of the coal mines for the Webster Coal Gas Company at Bellevernon. In 1900 Mr. Empfield became superintendent for the East Goshen company, in Ohio, with residence at New Philadelphia, where he was general manager for ten years. Since then he has been with the Northwestern Construction Company, of Franklin, Pa. Mr. Empfield is thoroughly businesslike, and a good judge of men, and he has always been popular with those under his charge as well as with his employers. He is keen and farsighted, intelligent in business and in citizenship, and has been actively interested in local public affairs wherever he lived. He served two terms as mayor of Fairport, Ohio, to which office he was first elected in 1897. In political sentiment he is a Republican. For twelve years he was postmaster at Rico, where he now lives, his wife attending to the duties of the office.

On Feb. 27, 1889, Mr. Empfield married Nellie G. Shaffer, of Indiana county, daughter of John Shaffer, and they have one child, Irwin Dale, who is now city editor of the New Philadelphia *Daily Times*. Mr. Empfield is a Mason, belonging to Temple Lodge, No. 29, of Painesville, Ohio, to the Council, and Knights Templar, Lake Erie Consistory, and Alkoran Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., of Cleveland Ohio.