

WILLIAM JOSEPH BROWN, son of Charles S. and Jane (Kirk) Brown, was born Dec. 18, 1837, in Redbank township, Clarion county, Pa. He was a young child when he went with his parents to Ohio, and attended school there. His mother died when he was but nine years old, and he went out into the world to make his own way at an early age, doing farm work, at first for his board and clothes. Later he received eight dollars a month besides his board, working at farming and lumbering in various localities of Clarion and Jefferson counties. In 1855 he settled in Redbank township, Clarion county, continuing to farm there until 1860, in which year he went to the oil fields, remaining there until the Civil war broke out. In 1861 he enlisted in Company K, 57th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, under Capt. C. S. Chase and Colonel Maxwell, and the command was attached to the 3d Army Corps. Mr. Brown seeing active service in battle near Yorktown, at Yorktown, Seven Pines, in the Seven days' Fight, in front of Richmond at Charles City Cross Roads and in a number of other engagements. He was discharged at Harrisburg, Pa., July 4, 1865, after serving three years, ten months with the same company and regiment, during which period he was never wounded or in hospital.

After his return from the army Mr. Brown was in the oil territory in Crawford county until 1867, when he resumed farming, living in West Mahoning township, Indiana county, one year. Then he moved to Plumcreek township, Armstrong county, where he made his home for twenty years, farming and stock raising, and from there went west to Illinois, spending two years in that State and Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. Coming back to Pennsylvania he farmed two years in Lower Burrell township, Westmoreland county, and then came to Indiana county, locating in 1896 in Center township, where he bought the Alexander McGaughey farm of 119 acres upon which he has since resided. He has engaged in general farming and stock raising, and has become one of the valued citizens of his section. He is a member of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Center township. Mr. Brown was a Democrat originally, but after the Civil war changed his allegiance to the Republican party, which he has since supported. While in Armstrong county he served as a member of the election board. He was married in North Mahoning township, this county, to Martha Jordan, daughter of Robert and Martha (Pounds) Jordan. She, too, is a member of Bethel Presbyterian Church. Nine children have been born to this union: Laura Aurelia, now the wife of Herman Nichols; Ada Elcie, married to William H. Kirkwood, of Clarion county; Harry Y.; Chester A.; William L., who resides in Armstrong county; John LeRoy, now in Indiana, Pa.; Walter H., also of Indiana; Belle, who is at home; and a daughter who died in infancy.