

WILLIAM KERR, who is now living retired in West Mahoning township, where he has spent his long and useful career in agricultural pursuits, was born on the old Kerr homestead place in that township, In march, 1838, son of Samuel and Polly (Thomas) Kerr.

Valentine Kerr, the first of this family to come to the United States, was born in Germany, and on emigrating to America took up wild land near Shelocta, Indiana Co., pa., where he spent the rest of his life in agricultural pursuits and died. He reared a large family of children.

Samuel Kerr, son of Valentine Kerr, and father of William Kerr, was born near Shelocta in 1796, and in 1822 came to West Mahoning township, where he first lived in a log cabin. He married Polly Thomas, of near Shelocta, daughter of Israel Thomas, and they became leading people of their part of the county, were known as faithful members of the United Presbyterian Church, and had the respect and esteem of all with whom they came into contact. Mr. Kerr was first a Whig and later became a member of the Republican party. Ten children were born to him and his wife, namely: Israel, deceased, was a farmer of West Mahoning township; Hannah, who married Griffith Condon, went West, and died in Iowa; John was a farmer on the old homestead; a son died in infancy; Valentine is living in Jefferson county; Amos, deceased, lived in Nebraska; Margaret, deceased, was the wife of M Condon; Joseph died in Iowa; William is mentioned below; Thomas met his death in battle during the Civil war, while a private in Company A, 78<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

William Kerr, son of Samuel Kerr, received only a limited education in his boyhood, and his entire life has been passed on the home farm. Some time prior to the Civil war he learned the trade of carpenter, which he followed off and on for some years, but the greater part of his time and attention after the war was devoted to agricultural matters. At this time he is living retired, feeling that the earnest and arduous labors of his early years have earned him a rest. He was married in September, 1860, to Ida Raush, of Center county, Pa., daughter of Henry Raush, a farmer, who on coming to this county settled in West Mahoning township.

On July 30, 1863, Mr. Kerr enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil war, in Company D, 102d Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, became a corporal, served as such until the time of his honorable discharge, June 28, 1865. He enlisted at Kittanning, Pa., was sent to Pittsburg and there drilled. During the next spring his regiment joined the Army of the Potomac, just prior to the battle of the Wilderness, where he received his baptism of fire. Subsequently he participated in the battles of Spottsylvania and Cold Harbor, being then sent to Washington, D.C., and then into the Shenandoah valley with general Sherman, fighting throughout the subsequent campaign, after which he returned to the army of the Potomac and to Pittsburg. He was also in various skirmishes. At the battle of Spottsylvania Mr. Kerr was hit by a piece of shell in his right shoulder, and he was sick considerably while in the service. He was known as a brave and cheerful soldier, faithfully performing the tasks assigned to him, content in the knowledge that he was serving his country's cause. At the close of hostilities he

returned to the occupations of peace, and proved just as good a private citizen as he had been a soldier.

Mr. and Mrs. Kerr had the following children: Alice, deceased, was the wife of Thomas Hoover, and had children, Josephine, Blanche, Agnes, Roy, Rebecca, Carl, Marie and Clara; Annie, deceased, married George Griffith and had three children, Charles, Pearl and Carrie; Seth B. married Etta Laughry and has four children, myrtle, Olive, Clyde and Alice; Edgar, a traveling salesman, whose home is at Punxsutawney, married Maggie Dormire, and has two children: Joseph, who is conducting the old homestead, married Marietta Weaver, by whom he had three children, Clarence, Annie and Pearl, and married (second) Maude Corman, by whom he has three children, Alice, Bert and Max; Ira, a railroad foreman, of Marion Center, Pa., married Jessie Gray.

Mr. Kerr's political principles are those of the Republican party, and he has served as tax collector, school director and in other capacities. With his wife and children he attends the Lutheran Church of Smicksburg.