

WILLIAM NELSON LIGGETT has, in a comparatively brief period of practice at the bar of Indiana county, attained such standing as to give promise of unusual achievement and usefulness. He is a resident of the borough of Indiana, where his energy and popularity have already led him into various activities helpful to the community and demonstrating his thorough sympathy with all that affects the general welfare. Mr. Liggett was born April 29, 1881, at Centerville, in West Wheatfield township, this county, son of Robert Carr Liggett, and belongs to a family of Scottish origin whose first representative in Indiana county was his great-grandfather, Robert Liggett.

Robert Liggett was a native of Glasgow, Scotland, where he grew to manhood. There he married a Miss Carr and they came to America, settling in Wheatfield township, Indiana Co., pa., where Mr. Liggett became a farmer, owning a tract of 200 acres. He was among the first settlers in that section of the county, and was one of the most respected men of his day. He was a member of the United Presbyterian Church, to which his wife also belonged. Their children were: John; William; Margaret, who married John Mabon; and Jane, who married Hugh Best.

William Liggett, son of Robert, was born Jan. 24, 1818, in what is now West Wheatfield township, and there grew to manhood. He followed farming all his life, owning a tract of 125 acres near Centerville, upon which he built a brick home and made other improvements. He spent the remainder of his life there, dying on the farm, and is buried in the Bethel Church cemetery. He was a member of the U. P. Church, in politics a Whig and Republican in turn, and took sufficient interest in the welfare of his township to fill the position of school director. Mr. Liggett married Mary Wallace, who was born in Wheatfield township, daughter of Samuel Wallace, and died Nov. 7, 1882, aged seventy-four years, seven months. She, too, is buried in Bethel Church cemetery. Fourteen children were born to this couple: Agnes, who died in June, 1871; Juliann, who died Dec. 9, 1865; Samuel, who died June 2, 1860; Mary, who died Oct. 22, 1880; Josephine, who died Feb. 28, 1879; Emma, who married Aiken Stivender, and died at Leesburg, Fla., May 28, 1891; Elizabeth, wife of Seymour Hollingsworth; Sarah Ellen, who died young; Robert Carr; Margaret, married to William Alexander, of West Wheatfield township; Lucinda, who married Lawson McKelvey, and resides in Youngstown, Ohio; William, a farmer of West Wheatfield township; John, who resides on the homestead; and J. Nelson, of Brushvalley township.

Robert Carr Liggett, son of William, was born on the Liggett farm in what is now West Wheatfield township Sept. 5, 1836, and had such educational advantages as the neighboring public schools afforded. He helped with the work at home from boyhood, remaining with his parents until he attained his majority. Farm work had been his principal occupation, but when he started out for himself it was as a laborer on the work train of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, his wages being eight cents an hour. After being employed in that capacity for some time he became a brakeman, running between Pittsburg and Altoona, and he received \$1.35 for the trip, which took from twelve to twenty hours. He was on the main line for a while, until promoted to conductor on work trains, having forty

miles of road under his jurisdiction. He was thus engaged for twenty-nine years, being one of the oldest conductors in the employ of the Pennsylvania Company at that time. It was during this period that the famous Johnstown flood occurred, and his name will live in history as one of the heroes of that disaster. He took it upon himself to run his train as rapidly as possible through the threatened district with whistle screaming, warning the people of their danger and urging them to flee to the hilltops. Thousands of lives were saved through his foresight and courage. When the flood was over he worked night and day with his train to get the road in passable condition again. He retired from railroad work in 1890 and settled down to farming on a forty-acre tract in West Wheatfield township, part of the original Liggett homestead, where he has since continued to reside. He has erected buildings and made other improvement on this tract, having a very attractive home. Though past seventy-five years of age he is still active in mind and body, looking after his own affairs and taking a zealous interest in local matters. He has always been regarded as a valuable citizen, being highly esteemed by all who know him for his sterling worth and high character. His genial disposition has endeared him to his family and a large circle of friends. Though a staunch Republican in political sentiment he is independent in his support of measures and candidates. He has served his township as school director. Mr. Liggett is a member of the U. P. Church at New Florence, of which he is a trustee.

On March 8, 1871, Mr. Liggett married Barbara Wagoner, who was born in Fairfield township, Westmoreland county, daughter of John and Betsey (Galbreath) Wagoner. She, too, is a member of the U. P. Church. Seven children have been born to this union, one of whom died in infancy, the others being; Samuel W., born Aug. 11, 1873, married Elizabeth Matthews Keller; Amy G., born Feb. 2, 1876, married Robert B. Rogers and resides in Conemaugh, Cambria Co., Pa.; Lottie V., born April 20, 1878, was educated in the public schools and at summer normal under Prof. J. t. Stewart; William Nelson is mentioned below; Mary Emma, born Nov. 27, 1883, died in 1887; Joseph R., born Oct. 23, 1886, is engaged in farming at home.

William Nelson Liggett was reared on the farm in Conemaugh valley where his father still lives. After receiving a good public school education he taught school in his native State for some time. Taking a collegiate course in the Ohio Northern University at Ada, Ohio, he was graduated in 1902 with the degree of A.B. In 1904 he graduated from the McGibbeney College of Oratory, Philadelphia, next took the course in the college of law at the Ohio Northern University, receiving the degree of L.L. B. in 1906; was dean of the College of Rhetoric and Public Speaking, Ohio Northern University, in 1906 and 1908, received the degree of A.m. from the Ohio Northern University in 1908; and was admitted to the bar in Ohio that year. In 1900 he was admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania, and has since been engaged in practice in the borough of Indiana. Mr. Liggett was a zealous and conscientious student throughout his preparatory years, and his devotion to his work and high abilities augur a useful and successful career for him in his chosen line. He has the respect and good will of all who know him, and his friends feel that he is destined to take a leading part in

matters affecting the public good in his own locality and perhaps in wider fields. He is a staunch Republican and has advanced ideas concerning honorable and public-spirited citizenship as shown in the clean administration of government and disinterested partisanship in politics. He fights his battles in the open, and is opposed to any compromise with the enemies of right, and his broad-minded views and keen intellect make him a powerful champion of any cause. He has already established himself as a criminal lawyer and an exponent of patriotic citizenship and clean manhood from the public platform.

In 1904 Mr. Liggett married Emma Pearl Mack, who was born Nov. 12, 1879, daughter of Robert G. Mack, of Indiana county, and they have two children, Beulah and Robert. Mr. Liggett is a member of the United Presbyterian Church of Indiana and takes an active interest in the church and Sabbath school work.