

WILLIAM SEWARD CARNAHAN is one of the leading business men in Armstrong township, Indiana county, the firm of W. S. Carnahan & Brother, of which he is senior member, conducting two well-appointed general stores, one at Parkwood and one at Shelocta. His home is at Shelocta.

The Carnahan family is numbered among the early settlers of this section of Pennsylvania, the Carnahans having come to America at the same time as the well-known Tomb family of East Wheatfield township, this county. Thomas Carnahan, great-grandfather of William S. Carnahan, resided in Perrysville, Westmoreland county, five miles from Saltsburg. He married a Miss McKinley, and they had the following children: Israel, Thomas, Elizabeth (married Matthias Jockey), Wilson (who went to California in 1849, returned to Pittsburg and engaged in the shoe business), Samuel and David R.

David R. Carnahan, son of Thomas, was born at Perrysville, in Bell township, Westmoreland county, and lived to the age of ninety-one years, dying in Armstrong township, Indiana county. His schooling was limited, and at an early age he became head of a family. Farming was his principal vocation, and he was enterprising and progressive, being the first man in Westmoreland county to own a grain cradle. Later he went to McKeesport, Pa., where he followed mining for a time, and then returning home bought a farm of 150 acres, which he subsequently laid out into building lots and sole, this being what is now Perrysville. In 1846 he became interested in salt works on the Kiskiminetas river, near Saltsburg, and for a time was engaged in making salt, and at the same time he conducted a steam gristmill located on the Kiskiminetas. He then moved to what is now Salina station and followed milling, then moved to the old farm at Perrysville, and in 1848 came to Indiana county, where he purchased the James Clark farm of 150 acres in White township. A number of years afterward he made a trade with John Cunningham, giving that place for a tract of 180 acres in Armstrong township, upon which he passed the rest of his days, carrying on general farming. He was much respected in his neighborhood, served at one time as supervisor of roads, held other offices of trust, and was a valued member of the United Presbyteriam Church. His first wife, Martha (Morrison), died at the age of thirty-seven years, and he subsequently married (second) Lavina Berkeypile. There were five children by the first union: Thomas M. is mentioned below; Mary Agnes married Thomas Hearn; Israel married Nancy Anthony, and they are mentioned elsewhere; Martha (deceased married Sansom Person; John Morrison (deceased) married Margaret Cunningham. Eight children were born to the second marriage: Albert, Carrie, Harvey, Lottie, Levi, Levina, David M. and Dick.

Thomas M. Carnahan, father of William Seward Carnahan, was born Aug. 27, 1837, at McKeesport, Pa., and obtained a common school education. He assisted his parents with the farm work, and in 1848 moved with his father to Indiana county, continuing to farm with him until 1888. He also owned a farm of his own, in Armstrong county, upon which he lived about fourteen years. In 1890 he sold his farm and engaged in the general store business at Shelocta as senior member of the firm of Thomas M. Carnahan & Sons, retaining his interest in this business until his sons bought it. On June 15, 1896, he entered upon his duties

as postmaster at Shelocta, and has served as such ever since; the office is located in his sons' store. Mr. Carnahan has been associated with public affairs in his township practically throughout his mature life, has held the offices of supervisor and school director, and in political connection is a Republican. In his younger days he belonged to the Jr. O.U.A.M., and in his early manhood he was a member of the State militia, at Chambersburg. He is an earnest member of the Shelocta United Presbyterian Church in Armstrong township, and is at present serving as elder in the church.

On Dec. 25, 1855, Mr. Carnahan married Mary Ellen Hamilton, who was born in White township, near Indiana, daughter of James and Margaret (Rhea) Hamilton, and died June 15, 1911, at the age of seventy-five years. She is buried in Oakland cemetery at Indiana. Children as follows were born to this union: James Otis, now a retired farmer living at Indiana, married Eva Portifield; Jane married James Hill, who is in the livery business at Indiana, where they reside; David Edward, a farmer, now living in Ligonier, Pa., married Belle Ralston; Ella M. married John S. Anderson, a farmer of Center township; William Seward is mentioned below; Mary Cynthia (deceased) was the wife of E. G. Orr; Thomas Wilson, who conducts the store of W. S. Carnahan & Bro. at Parkwood and also serves as postmaster at that place, married Mary Luella McGaughey, daughter of Joseph W. McGaughey, and after her death married Zella M. McAdoo, by whom he has three children, Sarah M., Thomas Archibald and Mary Ellen; Maud died when three and a half years old.

William Seward Carnahan was born march 24, 1865, in White township, Indiana county, one and a half miles from the town of Indiana, and there grew to manhood, receiving his education in the public schools. In his early manhood he was engaged in the sawmill business in association with his two brothers, and they also operated threshing machines and hay binders. On Jan. 1, 1892, he and his brother Thomas bought their father's interest in the general store at Shelocta, in the conduct of which they had previously been associated with him under the firm name of Thomas M. Carnahan & Sons, and few years later, in 1895, they opened another store, in Parkwood, having conducted both places ever since. As before noted, his father is postmaster at Shelocta, and his brother at Parkwood. Mr. Carnahan has demonstrated his business ability in everything with which he has been connected, and his fellow citizens have recognized his fitness by calling him to various public positions of trust. He is at present serving as assessor of his borough and president of the school board. Politically he is a Republican. His success in his own ventures, and his usefulness to the community, have brought him into prominence among the progressive residents of his locality.

On March 8, 1893, Mr. Carnahan married Jessie Lowman, daughter of Samuel Marlin Lowman, and they have three children: Charles Kelly, Julia Marie and William Hamilton

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