

GEORGE COOK, who throughout his business career has been prominently identified with the agricultural and lumber interests of Clarion County, was born there.

Mr. Cook is a son of Sebastian and Elizabeth (Smith) Cook, natives of Germany. The father's birth occurred in 1799, in Snewsheim, and in his native land he was married and continued to make his home until 1830, when he crossed the Atlantic and took up his residence in Lancaster County, Penn., where he worked at 'the wagon maker's trade for two years. However, the year 1832 found him located in Paint Township, Clarion County, on the turnpike two miles east of Shipperville, where he purchased eighty acres of wild land, and erected thereon a round-log house and a hewed-log barn. He cleared a small portion of his land, and later erected a good frame dwelling, but devoted the greater part of his time to wagon making. His wife, who had patiently shared with him "all the hardships and privations of pioneer life, passed away in 1855, and he died in 1852.

In the family of this worthy couple were four children: (1) Catharine, born in Germany, in 1827, was brought by her parents to Clarion County, and on reaching womanhood she gave her hand in marriage to Israel C. Bryner, of Centre County, Pennsylvania. For a time they lived in Crawford County, but now reside on his farm in Paint Township, Clarion County. Their children are: Joseph, David, Sebastian, Israel, Cornelius, George, Barton, Ezra and Lillie. (2) George is the second in order of birth. (3) Sebastian, born in Paint township, in 1839, married Margaret A. Stover, of Elk township, Clarion County, and they began their domestic life upon a farm purchased by her father in Paint township, but since 1895 have lived in Forest County, Pennsylvania. In 1861, he enlisted in the Union service for three years, and later re-enlisted, serving until the close of the war. He was in all the battles in which his regiment participated, was wounded in the foot while making a charge at Black Water, and at Newbern, N. C., was taken prisoner, being incarcerated in Andersonville for eleven months, during which time he suffered all the hardships known to Southern prison life. In his family were seven children, namely: Charles, Ida, Burton, Frank (a popular young man and an earnest Christian, who accidentally shot himself while out hunting), Sadie, Laura and Grace. (4) William, born in Paint Township, Clarion County, in 1844, learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for some years, but now owns and operates a fine farm in Elk township, Clarion County.

The public schools afforded our subject his educational privileges, and in early life he learned the millwright's trade, which he has since successfully followed in connection with other lines of business. Being a natural mechanic he engaged in contracting and building some time; in the employ of Thompson Brothers, he has erected sawmills in Virginia, Alexandria, W. Va., and Wyoming, Jefferson, Clarion and Forest counties, Penn., and ranks among the expert and most successful millwrights of this section of the State. After his marriage he located on the old homestead, and now devotes a portion of his time to the cultivation and improvement of his farm.

In 1859 Mr. Cook was married to Miss Opey Watkins, of Clarion County, a daughter of Jesse and Ellen Watkins, of Paint township, and they have become the parents of six children: William A., born in Paint township, in 1859, wedded Lottie Purcell, of Clarion County, by whom he has five children Dessie, John, Grant, Ettie and Margrie and they reside on his father's homestead. John Ellsworth, born in 1861, died of typhoid fever at the age of twenty years. Josephine, born in 1863, married Willis Tenney, of Clarion County, and they now reside at Wall, Allegheny Co., Penn., where he is engaged in railroading. Mary, born in 1866, married Samuel E. Kiser, and with their eight children they live upon a farm in Paint Township. George Albert, born in 1867,

married Ettie Simpson, a native of Chatham, New Brunswick, and has three children—Ruth, Clarence and Mabel. He operates a part of his father's farm. James F., born in 1874, received a good common-school education, and was married in July, 1897, to Mary C. Bish, of Paint township. They live on the old homestead with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. George Cook are consistent members of the Lutheran Church of the General Synod, and are widely and favorably known in their native county. His political support is always given the men and measures of the Democratic Party, and he has been called upon to fill various positions of honor and trust. For the long period of twenty-six years he has been an efficient member of the school board, was supervisor of his township one term, overseer of the poor ten or twelve years, auditor a number of terms, and when his present term expires he will have served as justice of peace for twenty years. It is needless to say that his duties have always been most faithfully and satisfactorily performed as his long retention in office plainly indicates that fact. He has the respect of all classes, and it is safe to say that no man in Paint Township has more friends than George Cook.

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