

CHARLES DEVINNEY FERGUSON, of Burrell township, Indiana county, belongs to one of the oldest families of that section. He was born Sept. 29, 1866, on the old Ferguson homestead on Stewards run, in Blacklick township, this county, where several generations of Fergusons have lived and labored. They are of Scotch origin.

James Ferguson, the emigrant ancestor of the family, was born March 17, 1746, in Scotland, where he passed his early life. On Dec. 31, 1770, he was married there to Elizabeth Elliott, who was born Jan. 4, 1750, and they came with their family to America about the close of the Revolutionary war, settling first at Morrison's Cove, in Huntingdon county, Pa. In 1786 they removed to what is now Blacklick township, Indiana county (then a part of Westmoreland county), locating on a tract of land which was patented in the name of Barbara Elliott. The family remained for a short period at the Dixon Blockhouse, at Broad Ford, but made a permanent home in Blacklick township, where Mr. Ferguson died April 30, 1813. His wife had died Oct. 26, 1792, at the age of forty-two years. They were the parents of the following children: William, born Nov. 14, 1771 (died Sept. 23, 1819); Rebecca, April 20, 1773; John, May 20, 1775 (died Jan. 11, 1791); Hance, March 3, 1777 (died April 30, 1813); Elizabeth, March 30, 1779; James, Feb. 17, 1781; Samuel, March 27, 1783 (died Dec. 14, 1843), David, Jan. 30, 1786 (died Aug. 9, 1862); Jean, April 17, 1788; Elliott, Dec. 14, 1789 (died June 7, 1852); Mary, Sept. 10., 1792.

James Ferguson, son of James and Elizabeth (Elliott) Ferguson, was born Feb. 17, 1781, in Scotland, and soon afterward was brought to America by his parents. He was in his sixth year when the family settled in Blacklick township, Indiana county, where he was reared and became engaged in farming, spending the rest of his life there. He died March 2, 1846, at the age of sixty-five years, thirteen days. His wife, Margaret (Devinney), born Oct. 7, 1793, died Nov. 27, 1861, aged sixty-eight years, one month, twenty days. They had a family of twelve children, namely: Elliott, born July 8, 1812, died June 19, 1883; Aaron, born March 25, 1814, died Jan. 4, 1881; Elizabeth, born Jan. 2, 1816, married James Patticord; William, born Jan. 21, 1818, died June 16, 1885, in Ohio; Jane, born May 14, 1820, died Sept. 7, 1907, unmarried; James, born March 8, 1822, lived at New Florence, Pa., and later went to Kansas; Andrew D. was born March 24, 1831; David, Jan. 2, 1833; Margaret Ann, Sept. 12, 1836.

John Ferguson, son of James and Margaret (Devinney) Ferguson, was born May 12, 1828, at the Ferguson homestead, and attended the Ferguson school. The land on which the school building stood was given by his father for that purpose. He began to assist his father when a mere boy, and continued to follow farming and stock raising at the homestead all his life, making extensive improvements on the property during his ownership. During the Civil war his sympathies were with the Union, and he served three months in the Pennsylvania militia. He was a staunch Republican, and took an active interest in local politics, and he held a number of the township offices, serving as school director, supervisor, and tax collector. He was a leading member of the Hopewell M. E. Church and prominent in all its work serving as steward, trustee and class leader. He died on his farm May 22, 1895, and is buried in Hopewell M. E.

Church cemetery. On Nov. 24, 1863, at Livermore, Pa., Mr. Ferguson married Sybilla Kells, who was born June 2, 1846, daughter of Robert and Mary (Cunningham) Kells, the former a native of Ireland who came to America with his parents and settled in Philadelphia, later moving to Westmoreland county, Pa., where he passed the remainder of his life; he is buried at Livermore. Mr. Kells was a carpenter and boatbuilder by occupation. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson had the following children: (1) Frank Ulysses, born Dec. 12, 1864, attended Blairsville Academy and later was a student at the James Beacom private school for five terms. He then studied medicine and was in the drug business at Glitson, and is now engaged in the practice of medicine there. He married Margaret Bradley. (2) Charles D. is mentioned below. (3) Mary Savannah, born Feb. 21, 1870. married E. C. Ryder and lives in Pittsburg. (4) Jennie May, born Nov. 23, 1872, married Thomas N. Dougherty. (5) George Crooks, born May 31, 1875, is a farmer in Indiana county, Pa. He married Effie Fritz. (6) Rebecca Kells, born Sept. 13, 1878, married Roy Torrence. (7) James Thomas, born Oct. 10, 1883, now in Port Arthur, Texas, is shipping clerk for the Gulf Refining Company.

On July 5, 1900, Mrs. Ferguson married (second) Matthew H. Henry, of Blairsville, Pennsylvania.

Charles Devinney Ferguson attended the Ferguson school near the homestead, and subsequently worked there with his parents until 1891, when he married and started life on his own account. Renting the Smith farm he cultivated that place for a year, the next year farmed the Walker place, and in 1893 moved to Burrell township, where he carried on the Sloan place for five years. In 1898 he bought the Laughlin farm of ninety-eight acres (originally known as the McCrea farm) and there settled down to farming stock raising. Ambitious and honorable, he has made a substantial and respected place for himself in the community, having been successful in his work and a thoroughly reliable and useful citizen. He still retains the coal interests on the old homestead, and also has acquired other coal interests in the State.

On Feb. 25, 1891, Mr. Ferguson married Lenora Hazlett, daughter of Lesley and Margaret (Streams) Hazlett, and they have become the parents of ten children: Alma (now engaged in teaching school, living at home), Lesley, Gladys, Lena, Margaret, Lynn, Clair, Winifred, Evabel and Wayne G. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson and their family are members of the United Presbyterian Church at Blairsville, and he has served as elder for four years. He has been deeply interested in politics as a progressive Republican, and has taken some part in the workings of the party in his section, having served as member of the township election board and as a member of the county Republican committee. He has been school director of his township for three years.