

The eldest daughter is the wife of G. H. Klepinger, a prominent wholesale grocer and real-estate owner of Allentown. The eldest son is an energetic merchant and prominent Mason. The third daughter is the wife of a clergyman of the Reformed Church. Two of the family are still unmarried and reside at home, the youngest son, who, like his brother, is an advocate of Freemasonry, assisting his father in the mercantile business.



**J**ONAS F. MOYER, who was appointed by President Cleveland to the position of Postmaster of Catasauqua in the spring of 1894, is making a good record in this capacity. He is a leading Democrat, having been one of the workers in the ranks of his party, and for the past twelve years has been a correspondent for the *Allentown Daily Item*.

Born at Macungie, in this county, June 2, 1850, J. F. Moyer is the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Mertz) Moyer, the father a native of Upper Milford, and the mother of Macungie. The paternal grandfather was born in the Keystone State, but his father was a native of Holland, who became one of the early settlers of this county. Samuel Moyer was a carpenter by trade, and assisted in building the locks in the canal, and also erected the first brick house in the borough of Macungie. Later he owned a slateyard, and was a partner in the foundry of Miller & Moyer. In other enterprises he was also active. Though now seventy-seven years of age he takes a great interest in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and is living a retired life in the borough which has been his home since boyhood. His wife was a daughter of Henry Mertz, a native of the same place, who was a broom manufacturer.

In his parents' family, which comprised eight children, Jonas F. Moyer is the fourth in order of birth, all but two of the family still living. He was reared in the place of his birth, attending the public schools, and about 1861 commenced his

active career, his first work being in a brickyard. Afterward he worked on a farm in the vicinity, and then on one in Bucks County, during which time he attended school to some extent. We next find him a clerk in a store at Macungie, from where he went to Philadelphia, obtaining employment in a grocery. Once more returning to his childhood's home, he engaged as a clerk in the same store, but about 1869 he began teaching at Alburtis, and taught there for one term, following the same business for some seven or eight terms in the vicinity of Macungie. During this time he attended the Keystone Normal, working his own way, and graduating June 1, 1877, with the degree of Bachelor of Elements. Two years later he received the degree of Master of Elements. After this he resumed teaching, and the following two years taught at Ironton, and later for one year at Sand Springs. Thus the years passed, his time being mainly given to teaching until 1883. In 1879 he took the First Ward School in Allentown, which he taught for a year, and then for the same length of time taught the school in North Whitehall Township, near Unionville. After leaving Unionville he came to Catasauqua, teaching here for two years, when he changed his vocation and became bookkeeper for William Yunger in his flourmill. At the end of two years he resigned his position in the mill to engage in the life-insurance business, which he has since continued in with the exception of some five winters when he taught the Faust Grammar School, and in Allen Township. While in the life-insurance business Mr. Moyer represented the Mutual Benefit Association of Newark, N. J., and in its interests has traveled considerably in adjoining counties.

In this city Mr. Moyer was married, in 1878, to Miss Celia R. Troxell, who was born in Washington Township, of this county, and is a daughter of E. A. Troxell, who is engaged in merchandising in Catasauqua. To Mr. and Mrs. Moyer were given seven children, five of whom are living, as follows: Samuel E., Ida E., William A., Russell F. and Ella May. Mary E. and Solon F. are deceased.

In January, 1894, Mr. Moyer was given the preference over about twenty-three applicants, and received the appointment of Postmaster, taking

possession of the office immediately. He has many warm friends and supporters in his party, who have been most happy to give him their patronage and support, and the wisdom of their selection and recommendation has been shown in the manner in which he has conducted the affairs of the office. Mr. Moyer is an Odd Fellow; is Past Officer of the Knights of the Golden Eagle, having represented his lodge in the Grand Lodge, and is a member of the Patriotic Order Sons of America, being one of the founders of the lodge and Past Officer. For one term he served on the Grand Jury, and, in brief, has been in many ways before the public in leading roles. A member of the Reformed Church, he is one of its active workers and is Superintendent of the Sunday-school.



**W**ILLIAM R. THOMAS has for many years enjoyed a reputation not only as one of the finest mechanics in Catasauqua, but also as a man who is thoroughly posted in public affairs. He is now in the employ of the Davies & Thomas Company. A man of more than ordinary ability, he has had a vast amount of experience in his work, and every transaction is characterized by good judgment. He was born in Glamorganshire, Wales, May 30, 1829, and is the son of Hopkin Thomas, whose life history will be found in the biography of James Thomas. The paternal grandfather of William R. Thomas, who was also a native of Wales, was a miller, which occupation he followed in his native land during his entire life.

Hopkin Thomas, who was also a fine machinist, crossed the Atlantic in 1834, and located for a time in Philadelphia. Thence he went to Beaver Meadows, where William R. Thomas, his son, received his education in the district school, and when sixteen years of age learned the machinist's trade in the shops located there. He remained there until attaining his twentieth year, when, desiring to perfect himself in his line of work, he

went to New York City and received special instruction in the navy-yards. For two years he worked there, and in 1854 emigrated to La Salle County, Ill., and thence to Amboy, where he engaged as an engineer on the Illinois Central Railroad, running between that city and Centralia.

After a service of two years on the road Mr. Thomas' health failed, and he returned to this city, and after recuperating entered the employ of the Crane Iron Company as master mechanic, remaining with them until 1868, and only leaving their employ to become a partner in the McKee, Fuller & Company Car Wheel and Axle Works. He was Superintendent of the plant for two years, when he disposed of his interest in the business, and became connected with the Coleraine Iron Works in the building of furnaces, managing the work shop until 1875. That year he went South to Georgia, where he built the Rising Fawn Iron Furnace in Dade County. From there he went to Helena, Ala., and superintended the operations of the Helena coal mine for a month. At the expiration of that time he returned home and accepted the superintendency of the Coleraine Iron Company for one year, after which he went to Hokendauqua to fill the same position for the Thomas Iron Company. After being seven years in their employ he was, in March, 1887, made Superintendent of the Crane Iron Company, and continued in this position until 1891, when, in company with A. and C. H. Fuller, he started the Globe Metal Works. With this he was connected a year, when he sold out, and, coming again to this town, became connected with Davies & Thomas' Foundry and Machine Works.

William R. Thomas was united in marriage in Janesville, this state, in 1856, to Miss Martha Mayhew, a native of England, and the daughter of Francis Mayhew. Of the nine children who were born to them eight are now living: James, a machinist in this city; Katie, Mrs. Agthe, of Philadelphia; John, a chemist in this place; Helen, Irene, Mary, William and Fritz, at home with their parents. Frank, who was Superintendent of the Franklin Iron Works in New York, died in that city.

In social affairs Mr. Thomas is a Free and Ac-