

farm lies about four miles south of Irwin Station, between it and the Youghiogheny River, and is the place where his maternal grandfather, Matthias Cowan, first located one hundred and twenty-one years ago, during all of which time the homestead has been in the family and belonging to three generations.

THE McCORMICK FAMILY.

John and Joseph McCormick, brothers, came from County Tyrone, North Ireland, in 1788, and purchased land around what is now Larimer Station. Joseph never married, and died at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. John had married Sarah Sloan in his native country before he emigrated. She was a lady of unusual mental attainments for her day, a midwife of considerable note, and a sister of Dr. William Sloan, an Irish practitioner of much celebrity. Their four children born before their emigration were:

1. William.
2. Andrew.
3. Jane. First married to Robert Donaldson; secondly, to Mr. McDonald, of Franklin County; and the third time to Daniel Hellman, who was killed near Larimer Station by a log rolling over him while clearing land. She had no children.
4. Joseph.

The children born in Westmoreland County were:

5. John, born Aug. 22, 1789.
6. David.
7. Sarah, never married.
8. Samuel, settled at Cadiz, Harrison Co., Ohio.
9. Thomas.
10. Elizabeth, married Samuel Osborne at Stewartsville, had eight children.

Of the above seven sons, all but David and Thomas lived to be over eighty years of age. John, the fifth child, was born at his father's homestead, across the creek from Larimer Station. He was a tanner, and learned his trade with Caspar Walthour, to whom he was apprenticed in 1804, in his fifteenth year. He built the tannery at Larimer Station, operated it for years, then sold it, and subsequently the land upon which it was erected. He married Esther Sowash, whose ancestors had early settled in Virginia and were of Huguenot extraction. Their children were:

1. William, died in infancy.
2. Eli, born May 14, 1820, and a school-teacher from 1848 to 1864; now magistrate and notary public.
3. John Calvin.
4. Sarah, died young.
5. George.
6. Dr. James Irwin.
7. Silas, attorney-at-law.
8. Samuel.
9. Mary Elizabeth, died in infancy.
10. Albert, died young.

11. Rachel, married John George.

12. Henry H., lawyer in Pittsburgh, Speaker of the House of Representatives in State Legislature in 1874, and six years United States District Attorney for Western District of Pennsylvania.

13. Horace Greeley.

DR. JAMES IRWIN McCORMICK, the sixth child of John and Esther (Sowash) McCormick, was born in March, 1828. He attended Washington College, Pa., but graduated at Franklin College, Harrison County, Ohio. He subsequently taught school at Johnstown, Greensburg, and other prominent places in the State. In the spring of 1855 he was appointed by Governor James Pollock as superintendent of the Westmoreland County schools, which position he held two years, and by his assiduous labors and genius succeeded in raising the standard of the qualifications of the teachers.

He then opened a Normal School at New Derry, which became a popular institution, and one noted for the thoroughness of its training. While conducting this he read medicine with Dr. William Burrell, and after graduating at the Western Reserve Medical College, at Cleveland, Ohio, he located at New Florence. Shortly after he located at West Fairfield, and took the practice of Dr. Taylor, then elected to the Legislature. In 1871 he removed to Irwin, where he soon acquired a very extensive practice, and took rank as one of the best physicians and surgeons in the county. He was one of the finest classical scholars in the State, and no one in this county ever equaled him in his labors and success in behalf of the free schools. He married Rachel Black, daughter of Samuel and Jane (Mansperger) Black, by whom the following children were born:

1. Emma.
2. Samuel Black.
3. John.
4. Margaret Isabella.
5. William Henry Harrison.

After his wife's death he married her sister, Margaret, who bore him children, to wit:

1. Charles.
2. Mary Alice.
3. Eugenia.
4. James Irwin.

Dr. McCormick was a Republican in politics, and once the candidate of his party for Congress. He served several years as United States examining physician for pensions. He was an active member of the Masonic order, and of the Ancient Order of United Brethren. He died Aug. 18, 1881.

THE IRWIN FAMILY.

Among the earliest settlers in this township were Col. John and James Irwin, two brothers, who emigrated from North Ireland. The former was for several years an Indian trader; but when emigrants began

to pour into the new settlement he entered large tracts of land. He subsequently, after the organization of the county, became one of the associate judges of its courts. His brother James married Jane Fullerton, and settled on his farm near Irwin Station. Their son, John Irwin, was born Oct. 9, 1811. He married for his first wife Lydia Hurst, of Mount Pleasant, Jan. 9, 1834, who was born September, 1811, and bore him children as follows:

1. Thomas Hurst, born Sept. 8, 1836.

He married his second wife, Mary J. Dickey, Oct. 1, 1844. She was born Dec. 27, 1818.

The children by the second marriage were:

1. Nancy Hurst, born July 30, 1845, and married to Thomas Stewart.

2. Jane Fullerton, born Feb. 20, 1848, died Aug. 16, 1864.

3. Elizabeth Dickey, twin of above, married May 19, 1875, to James L. Ewing.

John Irwin died June 7, 1856. The original Irwin lands extended from Jacksonville to Wardensville. Judge Irwin left a part of his vast landed domain to his nephew, John Irwin, who upon it laid out the borough of Irwin. The latter was the first man in this region who took out and sold coal, which was then done to accommodate his neighbors. For the first coal lands he sold,—that is, the right to take out the coal,—and reserving the fee to himself, he received a hundred dollars per acre.

ELI McCORMICK.

The grandfather of the gentleman whose portrait appears herewith, John McCormick, emigrated from County Tyrone, Province of Ulster, Ireland, to America in 1788, and settled at what is now Larimer Station, Westmoreland Co., where he purchased a large tract of land. He married Sarah Sloan, of his native isle. They had ten children, nine of whom married and raised families. Their fifth child was John, who was born about one year after their settlement in this county. He was apprenticed to the tanning trade, which he learned thoroughly, and followed for a number of years. Not being entirely satisfied with this business, he disposed of his tannery, and, being a natural mechanic, he devoted a few years to carpenter work. He then engaged in farming, which he followed about nine years, when he was elected justice of the peace in North Huntingdon township. He was continued in this office until eighty-one years of age. He was a man of rare intelligence, having supplemented his "school learning," which was limited, by extensive and careful general reading. He married Esther Sowash, who was of German descent, and a native of Westmoreland County. They had thirteen children. Those living are Eli, John C., George, Silas, Samuel S., Rachel E., and Henry H. Those dead are William S., Sarah, James I., Mary E., Albert, and Horace G.

John died in 1873, and his wife Esther in 1866.

Eli McCormick was born at Larimer Station, Westmoreland Co., Pa., May 14, 1820. He attended the subscription schools of the neighborhood until fifteen years of age, and then engaged in farming. This he pursued for a few years, and then re-entered school, where he remained for two years preparing himself for teaching, to which he devoted a number of years, quitting it permanently in 1854. In 1848 he purchased a drug-store in Adamsburg. This he disposed of in 1855, and removed to Kittanning, Armstrong Co., Pa., where he again engaged in the drug business. In 1858 he entered the employ of a drug firm as traveling salesman. He continued in this until 1870, when having been elected justice of the peace in Irwin, where his family had resided for a number of years, he entered upon the duties of his office. In the same year he was appointed notary public, and has held the position ever since.

Mr. McCormick is a thoughtful, intelligent business man, being a firm believer in the adage "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well." As a teacher he held advanced views, being one of the first in the county to reject and repudiate the rule of brute force in school government, which at that day was the only method employed in the county. In its stead he substituted moral suasion, and appealed to the children's sense of right and wrong. His success was marked, and many of the pupils who became imbued with his ideas were afterwards successful teachers. In short, no matter in what business engaged, he has made it the rule of his life to prepare himself thoroughly for his work.

He was married Dec. 29, 1846, to Sophia Kepple, youngest daughter of Jacob Kepple, of Salem township, Westmoreland Co. Their living children are John Q. A., married to Maggie Cooper; Jacob K., married to Mima Harris; Edward B., and Roscoe T. Two of their children, James I. and Frank, died young. Their only daughter, Mary, married William R. Hanna. They are both dead, and their only child, Roscoe Elton Hanna, resides with his grandparents.

ANDREW L. McFARLANE.

From County Tyrone, Ireland, came Francis and his wife, Mary (McWilliams) McFarlane, and settled in Westmoreland County. Here they remained but a few years, when they removed to Lawrence County, Pa., where Francis engaged in farming, in which business he was signally successful, and was able at his death to give each of his children a fair pecuniary start in life. The number of his children was fourteen, Andrew L., whose name is the caption of this article, and who was born Sept. 19, 1825, being the youngest. He received a good common-school education, and began work for himself as a farmer in his native county. In 1844 he came to Westmoreland County to superintend improvements upon his broth-



Eli W. McCormick

NORTH HUNTINGDON TOWNSHIP.

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Caldwell, M. Bertha E. Rose

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Elizabeth

ne, died first wife

- Martha Atlas, wife of W. F. Caruthers, born Aug. 6, 1812, died July 6, 1878.
- Samuel Gill, born May 14, 1807, died Sept. 5, 1875.
- Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Lenhart, died Nov. 24, 1862, aged 59.
- Mrs. Mary E. George, born April 8, 1831, died Oct. 21, 1878.
- Emma R., wife of Thomas H. Irwin, born Dec. 23, 1842, died March 2, 1865.
- William Schreiber, died June 7, 1876, aged 55.
- Robert Wilson, died Jan. 2, 1846, aged 70; his wife, Jane, died Feb. 20, 1863, aged 82.
- James Wilson, Jr., died May 12, 1847, aged 23.
- Elizabeth Wilson, wife of R. A. Hope, died Dec. 11, 1878, aged 49.
- Jacob B. Saam, born June 20, 1820, died Feb. 11, 1879.
- Henry Kibort, died Aug. 29, 1877, aged 66.
- Jacob Cole, died June 21, 1878, aged 57.
- Martia Bowers, died June 8, 1873, aged 36.
- Elizabeth, wife of Dr. D. D. Taylor, died —, aged 59.
- Mary, wife of John D. Evans, died March 27, 1876, aged 36.
- Mary J., wife of D. W. Highberger, died July 6, 1876, aged 32.
- Charles Robinson, died Sept. 15, 1879, aged 42.
- Thomas Williams, died Nov. 27, 1878, aged 51.

Sarah Cooper Rose - died 2-9-1882 age 36

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY

Sowash is near the above, and among its oldest interments are

- Joseph Mason, died Sept. 23, 1876, aged 67; his wife, Julia, died June 1, 1879, aged 71.
- Frank Flannigan, died Jan. 8, 1880, aged 70; his wife, Mary, died April 11, 1880, aged 68.
- Eve, wife of John W. Hugo, died July 15, 1876, aged 55.
- John Flannigan, died Nov. 2, 1876, aged 53.
- Thomas Dolan, died June 17, 1877, aged 51.

IRWIN BOROUGH.

Irwin is located on the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, twenty-two miles east of Pittsburgh; and is situated in the heart of the bituminous coal region of Western Pennsylvania. When the railroad was finished, in 1852, the site of the town was a forest of (mainly) white-oak timber. In 1844 there was only one house here, which was owned by Thomas Shaw, and an old log cabin occupied by a coal-digger. John Irwin, its founder, laid out the first plan of lots in September, 1853, to which he subsequently made several additions. The original plan called for but one street, called "Main," extending from the railroad to the Reformed Church. The first addition was First, Second, Third, Fourth, Oak, and Walnut Streets. The second addition comprised a nine-acre lot. He also built the "Stewart House."

The greatest change in the place was brought about by the coal companies. Just one month after the first through train passed over the railroad Thomas A. Scott and William Coleman commenced, in December, 1852, to open the mines and ship bituminous coal to distant markets. They continued to operate until 1856, when they sold out to the Westmoreland Coal Company, which had been incorporated in 1854. This company began operations at Larimer's Station, and has grown until its field of operations extends from below Manor Station to beyond Spring Hill. The Penn Gas-Coal Company was incorporated in 1859, and commenced shipping from Penn Station. In 1866 it bought out the Coal Run Railroad, which had been built in the same year by Painter & Lauf-

fer, and began work near this borough. In 1874 it built the Youghiogheny Railroad and opened mines near the mouth of Big Sewickley Creek.

In November, 1864, the borough was incorporated, the necessary survey for the same having been made by John McCormick, then seventy-five years of age, and H. F. Ludwick.

The first borough officers were elected in 1865, viz.: Burgess, H. F. Ludwick; Clerk, S. C. Rensburg; Councilmen, John Irwin, William F. Caruthers, Jacob Goehring, John McWilliams, Abner Cort; Treasurer, J. J. Hurst. The officers in January, 1882, were: Burgess, J. M. Dinsmore; Clerk, S. C. Rensburg; Council, David Steel, C. W. Pool, R. M. Fulton, J. H. Orr, George Cowash, Jr., C. R. Fritchman; Treasurer, John D. Brown; High Constable, Philip Buzsue.

George Sr 907

The first store in the town was kept by John George, in the property now owned by George H. Irwin.

In the early part of 1868 a visitor at Irwin described the town in the following article. As this was shortly after its incorporation, we regard it as valuable and of interest to the later generation:

"Irwin Station is situated on the Pennsylvania Railroad, ten miles west of Greensburg, and has of late become one of the most important stations along the line. In connection with and adjoining the station a village was laid out, which a short time since was incorporated under the title of 'the Borough of Irwintown.' On visiting this borough on Saturday last we found that Latrobe had not monopolized all the enterprising in our county, for that spirit exists to a very eminent and commendable degree in Irwintown.

"The first house on the site of the town now so thickly populated was built in the spring of 1854 by John George, Esq., who immediately settled therein. Here he found himself alone in the woods, without a habitation in sight, and surrounded on all sides by a dense forest. But he was not long to remain alone, for in quick succession the trees of the forest disappeared before the woodman's axe, and buildings were erected with surprising rapidity. The dreary and apparently repulsive side-hill seemed to be inviting to the energetic pioneer, whose industry and labor soon changed the aspect from a dull, uninteresting forest to a flourishing, beautiful, and pleasant borough of one thousand inhabitants.

"We purpose to make a brief sketch of the improvements which came under our notice, hoping that it will tend to stimulate to exertion towards progression in the future, and that their brilliant record for enterprise in the past may be outdone by themselves.

"There are three hotels within the limits of the borough, all of which are kept in good, orderly style. The Guffey House is situated on the corner of Second and Oak Streets, is a large three-story building, containing nineteen comfortable and commodious sleeping-rooms, two large and handsomely furnished parlors, a large and comfortable dining-hall, a reading-room and bar-room, besides the portions occupied by the landlord's family. It is so situated as to command a beautiful view of

1 On the 23d of August, 1864, the petition of the citizens of the town of Irwin was presented to the court, in which was set forth in the usual form and by the usual terms the inconvenience under which they suffered from want of being incorporated, and asking the court to incorporate the aforesaid Irwintown. The court, after the same had been regularly passed on by the grand jury at the August sessions, 1864, ordered and decreed on the 14th of November, 1864, that the prayer of the petitioners should be granted; that the inhabitants residing within the limits set forth should be incorporated under the name and style of the borough of Irwin; that the first borough election should be held on the first Monday in December, 1864; that the election should be held in the school-house in the borough; that John McCormick should give notice of the election, and that Stephen Ridinger should be judge, and John McWilliams and Derwin Taylor inspectors. Nov. 23, 1864, it was ordered that the borough of Irwin should be a separate school district.

same. The necessary oath that the petitioners included the majority of the freeholders within the bounds of the proposed borough was made by J. F. Landis before Reuben Shrum, justice of the peace. On the same day the grand jury considered the petition and returned it. Although there was a remonstrance, feebly signed, presented and filed some weeks later, the court on October the 19th, 1865, granted the prayer of the petitioners, and conferred on the inhabitants within the limits and boundaries designated the privileges of incorporation. It also appointed Friday, November the 2d, 1865, as the day on which to hold their first borough election, which was to be held at the house of Ralph Pratt; C. Smith was to give notice, Hiram Fisher was to be the judge, and S. H. Boyd and Joachim Schultz were to be the inspectors. The borough was also at that time made a separate school district. On the 20th of November following the decree of the court was amended so that the annual elections of the borough should thereafter be held at the school-house in the borough.

Since the date of its incorporation the burgesses have been Hiram Fisher (the first), James McMannis, L. B. Highberger, William Holmes, Joachim Schultz, John F. Landis, Henry Hall, John Helly, Mr. Brisbane, and James Mullin. Since 1875 the clerks have been: 1875, T. McIver; 1876, D. L. Masters; 1877, J. P. Wilson; 1878, T. C. McIver; 1879, Simon Peters; 1880-82, J. P. Wilson. The officers in January, 1882, are: Burgess, Joachim Schultz; clerk, J. P. Wilson; constable, Frank Herholtz; councilmen, R. A. Hope, Lemuel Offutt, Ralph Pratt, Henry Truxal, Valentine Cole, Leopold Baker.

The first drug-store was kept by John Zimmerman, and the second by Thomas C. King, who came here in 1870 from Johnstown and is still in business. The substantial frame school building of three rooms and a basement was erected in 1880. The school board consists of: President, Dr. Lemuel Offutt; Peter McGraw, secretary; J. P. Wilson, treasurer; James Mason, John Helly, Edward Gratz. The teachers are William Griffith (principal) and Miss Ella Toole.

RESOLUTION LODGE, No. 609, I. O. O. F.

This lodge was chartered Sept. 2, 1867. Its first officers were: N. G., Joseph Wilson; V. G., Samuel Wilson; Sec., Joseph McMannis; Asst. Sec., John Buckner; Treas., A. L. Kamerer.

REBECCA DEGREE LODGE, No. 91, I. O. O. F.

It was chartered April 7, 1874, with the following officers: N. G., John S. Albright; V. G., Elizabeth V. Kamerer; Sec., Mary E. Fisher; Asst. Sec., Ella Dawson; Treas., Fannie Westwood.

COVENANT LODGE, No. 59, K. P.

was chartered Sept. 2, 1870, with the following charter members: George McIntyre, Henry Levy, John B. Watterson, Paul Jones, John F. Landis, John

Giles, William Goodman, Henry Sager, Leopold Frank.

PENN STATION LODGE, No. 52, A. O. U. W., was chartered June 4, 1878, with the following charter members: John S. Albright, D. J. Miller, William Goodman, J. P. Wilson, James McMannis, Thomas Dawson, John Nicholson, D. T. Miller, Ralph Dawson, James Truxal, J. Wilson, D. Riddle, William Thomas, James Riddle, W. D. Edwards, John Loughner, Daniel Collier, Philip Kifer, J. P. Klingersmith.

PENN STATION DIVISION, No. 170, S. of T., was chartered Feb. 24, 1870. The charter members were Alexander Watson, John Painter, George Painter, Henry Truxal, George Hamilton, Thomas C. McIver, William Courtney, Andrew Buck, Wilson Sicafoce, Thomas Henderson, William Watson, Israel Linsalinger, William Goodman, Joseph Shotts, Mary E. McIver, Mary McMannis, and Lizzie Pratt.

ANCIENT ORDER OF KNIGHTS OF THE MYSTIC CHAIN.

The first officers and members were: Sir K. C., William Goodman; Sir K. V. C., John S. Albright; Sir K. 1st Lieut., James McMannis; Sir K. R. S., William McKlooen; Sir K. A. B. S., John Nicholson; Sir K. F. S., Daniel M. Kelly; Sir K. Treas., A. L. Kamerer; Sir K. I. G., William Thomas; Sir K. O. G., Ralph Dawson; Sir K. P. C., William McKlooen, Robert Harrison; Trustees, Philip Kifer, James Truxal, Thomas Dawson; Members, Joseph Wilson, D. J. Miller, H. W. Heasley, Cyrus Overley, Jerome Lake, D. T. Miller, George Shorthouse, Jacob Myers, Walter Nicholson, H. E. Klingersmith.

HARRISON CITY AND MANOR STATION

are both growing towns, situated on Brush Run, and have mills, tanneries, and various other industries. Both have neat Methodist Episcopal Churches, with flourishing congregations. The Presbyterian Church at Harrison City was organized Oct. 6, 1856, by Rev. Drs. Samuel M. Farren and David Kirkpatrick, and Revs. William Edgar and J. C. Carson, with Elders John Larimer and Joseph Miller, after a sermon by Mr. Carson. The members were fourteen, with three elders. The house of worship was erected in 1859, and Rev. William Edgar, pastor at Murrysville, having frequently preached there before the congregation, was released for half-time from Murrysville, April 11, 1860, and for that portion was installed at Harrison city. May 8th of that year Dr. Smith preached. Dr. McFarren charged the pastor, and J. C. Carson the people. April 8, 1865, he was released from his whole charge. The church was statedly supplied then for some time by Rev. James Davis. Nov. 21, 1871, Rev. G. K. Scott was installed for half-time, when Rev. W. M. Moorehead preached and charged the pastor, and G. M. Spargrove the people. He was released Oct. 2, 1872. June 29, 1873,

Rev. William M. Kain was installed for half-time, Revs. Henry Bain preaching, D. Harbison charging the pastor, and W. W. Moorehead the people. The original elders were Hugh M. Robertson, Samuel Earhart, ~~George Sowash~~, and William Chambers. The accessions were John K. Foster, ~~John Sowash~~, George Ramsey, Sr., L. B. Highberger, James A. Dible, and Dr. Henry Piper. Mr. Robertson removed and Mr. Dible died.

George Sowash

Sr 1J

John Sowash

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

JOSIAH BRINKER.

Joseph Brinker is a native of Penn township, and was born Aug. 27, 1810. His life-work has been farming. The high state of cultivation of his ancestral inheritance and of the several farms added thereto by his patient toil bears witness that he has done his work well. His grandfather, Jacob Brinker, and his wife emigrated from Germany, and settled in

Northampton County, Pa. They moved westward, and located upon the farm where Josiah now resides when most of it was a wilderness and the country was chiefly inhabited by Indians. Josiah's father, whose name also was Jacob, was then a youth of fifteen years. He was a farmer, and married Catharine Berlin, of Westmoreland County. He resided here until his death in 1846; Catharine died in 1835.

Josiah Brinker was married first in 1833 to Anna Kistler, of his native county. They had nine children, five of whom grew to maturity. Those living are Jacob, Paul, Hiram, and Mary. Anna died in 1862, and in 1864 Josiah was married again to Mary E. Ament, of Westmoreland County. By this marriage there are two daughters, Sadie M. and Ida M.

While Mr. Brinker has always been diligent in business, he has not neglected his duties as a citizen. Whatever has contributed to the best interests of the community in which he lives has always enlisted his support. In his youth he united with the German Reformed Church, of which organization he is a valued member.

ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP.

THE territory now comprising St. Clair township was taken from Fairfield, and made a separate and distinct municipality in 1856. It received its name in honor of Gen. Arthur St. Clair, the Revolutionary hero and patriot, who after the close of the war of independence resided in its vicinity.

The present boundaries of the township are: North by part of Indiana County, east by Laurel Hill, south by Fairfield township, and west by Conemaugh River. It is the smallest in territory in the county.

Its surface is generally hilly, but much of its soil is tolerably productive, particularly in the central part of the township. The main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad runs along the bank of the Conemaugh through to the township, with a depot at Nineveh (Verona post-office) and at New Florence. There are no mineral developments in the township, though stone and coal both exist under the surface. Its inhabitants are of the thrifty and industrious class, and keep the few acres of fertile land contained in its limits in a good state of cultivation.

NEW FLORENCE BOROUGH.

At the February sessions, 1865, the citizens of the village of New Florence prayed the court to grant

them corporate privileges. The grand jury passed on the petition on the 24th of February, 1865, and did not report adversely to the desire of the petitioners, but it was held over by the court, and on the 27th of May, 1865, the report was by it set aside. It has been since incorporated.

The borough is pleasantly situated on the Conemaugh River and Pennsylvania Railroad. It was laid out as a village by Judge Robert Given. The depot is centrally located in the place, and the railway runs through the borough east and west. The streets are neatly laid out. It contains several stores, hotels, and shops; has a foundry, woolen-mill, and three churches,—Methodist, Catholic, and United Presbyterian. Its population is over five hundred.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

SAMUEL PERSHING.

Samuel Pershing, of New Florence, was born May 6, 1833, in Indiana County, Pa., about three miles from his present home. He is of German descent, the third son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Hice) Per-