

There are not many people now living who can recall the genial faced, white-haired old gentleman known as Judge Rayen, but his memory will always be kept green by the school in which successive generations of youth acquire the blessing of higher education amid traditions which make this institution one of which any city might justly be proud.

EVAN E. THOMAS One of the worthy citizens, efficient public officials and deservedly popular men of the Mahoning Valley is Evan E. Thomas who is serving his second term as sheriff of Trumbull County and is the nominee of the republican party for re-election (September, 1920.)

Mr. Thomas is a native of the Mahoning Valley. He was born on the Thomas farm in Liberty Township, Trumbull County, on January 1, 1877, the son of William J. and Anna (Williams) Thomas, both natives of South Wales, where the father was born in 1835 and the mother in 1838.

William J. Thomas worked in the coal mines of South Wales until 1869, and in that year he came to the United States and located at Crab Creek (now in the city limits of Youngstown), and worked in the different mines of the Youngstown district for many years, making his home on his farm in Liberty Township. Late in life he retired from active work and removed to the City of Niles, where he died in 1911. His wife preceded him to the grave, she dying in Niles in 1904.

Evan E. Thomas came to Warren in 1892 and began an apprenticeship at the blacksmith's trade in the shop of the late Henry A. Strong, for whom he worked, as apprentice and journeyman, for six years without losing a day from his work.

In 1899 Mr. Thomas and his brothers, William J. and David W., formed a partnership and engaged in general blacksmithing in Niles. In 1914 Evan E. was elected sheriff of Trumbull County on the republican ticket; in 1916 he was nominated for re-election, but was defeated and rejoined his brothers in business at Niles. It has long been the custom in Trumbull County to reward a faithful and efficient official with re-election; and as there had never been any question raised as to Mr. Thomas' faithfulness and efficiency, he decided to see vindication in 1918, and was renominated at the primaries and elected at the regular election, and served out his second term with such satisfaction to all concerned that in 1920 he was renominated, leading the republican ticket at the primary election, by an increased majority.

Mr. Thomas is a member of Mahoning Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Falcon Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Niles Lodge, Knights of Pythias, the Red Men and Royal Arcanum, all of Niles City.

On August 27, 1914, Mr. Thomas was united in marriage with Anna Evans, daughter of John E. and Anna Evans, of Niles, Ohio. Both Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are members of Niles Methodist Episcopal Church.

JONATHAN WARNER was one of the pioneers in the blast furnace industry of the Mahoning Valley. He was born at Oaks Corners, New York, February 8, 1808, and died at Youngstown, Ohio, April 18, 1895.

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He was a partner in the construction and operation of the first bituminous coal furnace in the valley except that at Lowellville, this being the Eagle at Brier Hill, and later erected two other furnaces at Mineral Ridge, where the successful use of black band ore was first accomplished on a large scale.

It is probable, however, that the most far reaching activity of Jonathan Warner was in the development of the Lake Superior ore region, from which more than 68,000,000 tons of ore are now mined annually, and on which depends almost the entire iron and steel industry of the United States, 64 per cent of the ores smelted in American furnaces having come from this region in 1918. Mr. Warner was one of the first men to foresee the tremendous development of the demand for iron and steel in this country and likewise among the first to realize that the limited supply available in this locality could last for but a short time. He was interested in the Mesabi Range before any ore from that range had been brought down the lakes, and used to go there when the Indians were the only persons who knew the location of iron mines. He was the first president of the Republic Ore Mining Company, the first to make shipment down the lakes a success. His efforts to enlist capital in the opening of the Lake Superior region met with many difficulties, as in that early day it was difficult to convince practical business men that iron ore could be transported 1,000 miles without exorbitant expense, but he persisted and was rewarded before his death in seeing the Marquette, Menominee, Gogebic, Vermilion, Mesabi, Michipicoten and Baraboo ranges all shipping ore down the lakes and supplying every furnace between the Alleghany Mountains and the Mississippi River.

Jonathan Warner was the progenitor of the Warner family whose members have been so conspicuous in the iron and steel industries of the Mahoning Valley for three generations. He was the grandfather of Jonathan Warner, president of the Trumbull Steel Company and one of the leading figures in the industry at this time.

REUBEN McMILLAN. Among Youngstown educators of both old and modern days there is one who always stands foremost in the minds of the greatest number. Mention of his name awakens only the fondest recollections in the mind of any Youngstown person past the age of two score years who received his or her education in the public schools here.

Reuben McMillan was born at Canfield on October 7, 1820, his father being a native of New Jersey and his mother a native of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. His early educational opportunities were limited, but he received some instruction in the township schools and by private tuition until thirteen years of age, when he began to learn the trade of harness making. He remained at this work for four years, but his inclinations were in another direction, and at seventeen he determined to obtain a better education. Even while working at his trade he studied Latin and other academic branches, pursuing this study and algebra and geometry, at home in the evenings after his day's work was done.

In 1837 he became a teacher in the rural schools, obtaining in this manner sufficient funds to permit him to pursue an academic course. From 1839 to