

Elmer Dean Robison.

An enterprising young farmer of Cranberry Township, **Elmer Dean Robison**, was born at the family homestead, where he now resides, October 22, 1866, and is one of a family of six children whose parents were **Robert** and **Esther (Robison) Robison**. Only three of the children, however, survive, the eldest being **Margaret J.**, wife of **Isaac Helem**, of Chicago Junction, Ohio, while the youngest is **William L.**, a resident farmer of Cranberry Township. The father was twice married, his first union being with **Mary A. Robison**, a daughter of **William Robison**, who was one of three brothers and a brother of the grandfather of our subject. There were three children by this marriage, but all are now deceased.

Many of the leading citizens of Ohio have come to this state from Pennsylvania, and among the number was the father of our subject, who was born in Perry County, of the Keystone state, on the 10th of October, 1825. His parents were **John** and **Jennie (Baxter) Robison**, who were also natives of that county and the former was of Scotch-Irish extraction, while the latter was of Scotch parentage. In 1867, when their son **Robert** was only twelve years of age, they traveled by wagon to Ohio, bringing with them their household effects. The journey led them through dense forests and across unbridged streams, and with the pioneer settlers of this portion of the Buckeye state they cast in their lot. Having arrived in Crawford County, the grandfather purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Cranberry Township, now owned by **Adam Eckstein**. He was a blacksmith by trade, and after locating here erected a shop on his farm, conducting business along that line for a number of years. In early life **Robert Robison** worked in the smithy with his father and in this way mastered the business, becoming quite an expert at the forge. When twenty years of age he opened a shop of his own in Waynesburg, and during the succeeding three years worked almost day and night in order to gain a start in business life. He received good pay for his labor, and on the completion of that period he had received three thousand dollars. This he invested in a farm of eighty acres, where his son, **William L.**, now resides. It was then almost entirely forest land, and in the midst of the green woods he erected a log house, as well as a shop, giving his attention to blacksmithing. He hired someone to clear his land and develop the fields. Sometime later he developed forty acres adjoining his farm, thus extending its boundaries until it comprised one hundred and twenty acres. He continued work in the smithy until 1867, when he purchased of **Casper Eberly** a tract of land of forty acres, on which he erected a residence, and then moved to the farm which is now the home of his son **Elmer**.

He then abandoned blacksmithing, except as he occasionally did a little work in that way as an accommodation for some friend or neighbor. In 1876 he purchased thirty acres of land lying just north of the home farm and in 1880 bought fifty acres of the **Cory** heirs, lying just across the road from his residence. This is now the property of our subject. His landed possessions after these purchases aggregated two hundred and forty acres, and he also owned a town residence, surrounded by eleven acres, in New Washington. After a useful, honorable and active career he was called to his final rest March 16, 1900. During the last eight years of his life he was blind, but he bore the affliction with Christian fortitude. He held membership in the Presbyterian Church and was a staunch Democrat in politics, but would never accept office, preferring to devote his energies to his business affairs, which demanded all of his attention and which

brought to him a good financial return for his labor. He possessed an iron constitution, indomitable will and unflagging energy, and his life is in many respects well worthy of emulation. His wife was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania, May 25, 1832, and was a daughter of **George Robison**, a native of Perry County, Pennsylvania, and of Scotch-Irish extraction, as was also her mother. The paternal and maternal grandfathers of our subject were own cousins. **George Robison**, the maternal grandfather, was an officer in the war of 1812, and after the close of hostilities was recognized as a leader in military matters for many years. By trade he was a cooper and he acquired considerable land, thus becoming in comfortable circumstances. He and his wife both spent their lives in Perry County, Pennsylvania, and their daughter, **Mrs. Esther Robison**, passed away in Crawford County, January 5, 1900.

Elmer Dean Robison, whose name forms the caption of this article, was given the educational privileges afforded by the common and high schools of New Washington, completing the course with the first graduating class, in 1883. The same fall he entered Oberlin College, where he completed the work of the junior year. His health then failed him and he was compelled to discontinue his studies, which was a great blow to him, for he possessed literary tastes and wished to prepare for a profession or for some literary work. Leaving college, he returned home, and after a few months spent in recuperating he became a student in the Davis Business College of Toledo, where he was graduated in the fall of 1887. During the succeeding winter and summer he remained at home, his health being greatly benefitted thereby. He assisted in the work of the farm to some extent, and in the fall of 1888 he began teaching, which profession he followed through the winter months, while in the summers he aided in the labors of the field and meadow.

However, when the spring of 1890 came he found that the confinement of the school room had again undermined his health and he went to Colorado, where during the following six months he improved rapidly. He extended his trip into Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, California, Wyoming and Nevada, and in November, 1890 returned to his home. The following year his father lost the sight of one eye through an accident. In January, 1892, **Mr. Robison**, of this sketch, took a trip through the south to Jacksonville, Florida, in order to recover from the effects of the grip, and spent two months in that sunny clime, after which he made his way northward to Atlanta, Georgia, where he accepted a position with the Southern Bell Telephone Company, acting as secretary to the superintendent. He served in that capacity until, in a traction accident on a Sunday excursion on the Chattanooga River, he had his legs almost cut off. For six weeks he was forced to remain in bed. He then returned home to rest and recuperate, and soon after his arrival his father entirely lost the sight of both eyes.

At the earnest solicitation of his parents **Mr. Robison** decided to remain at home, where he has since continued, caring for his father and managing the farm. He is a most energetic and resolute young man, of strong purpose and marked ability, and his business management has brought to the farm good success. He votes with the Democracy and socially is identified with Hyperion Lodge, No. 651, K. P., in which he has held all of the chairs and is now serving as keeper of the records and seals and master of finance. His life has been upright and honorable, energetic and diligent, and throughout the community he has a large circle of friends.