

History of Perry County, Pennsylvania, Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men, By H. H. Hain, Harrisburg, Pa., 1922 - Hain-Moore Company, Publishers, Harrisburg, Pa.

**Rev. William A. West** was the son of **William** and **Susan (Loy) West**, his grandfather having been **Edward West**, the pioneer who settled near Falling Springs, about four miles east of Landisburg. **Rev. West** was born at Landisburg, February 25, 1825. That spring the family removed to Warm Springs, Perry County, where they resided for ten years, then living a year in Landisburg. In 1836 they removed to New Bloomfield, where the future theologian attended the public schools. A year later, when the Bloomfield Academy opened its first term, he was one of the students, and there he prepared for college, teaching in the meantime, when yet not seventeen. He united with the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church in 1843. In 1844 he entered Marshall College, at Mercersburg, but lost a year by becoming organizer and first teacher in the Reformed Parochial School at Middletown, Maryland, and six months as a private tutor, to replenish his funds for his education. He graduated in 1849. He then entered the Western Theological Seminary at Allegheny, Pa. While at the seminary he taught Latin and mathematics two hours daily at Caton Academy, in Pittsburgh, and during one vacation at the Plainfield Academy, near Carlisle. On April 14, 1852, he was licensed by the Presbytery of Carlisle, to preach the gospel. During the following winter he filled the Upper Path Valley pastorate for Rev. Wm. A. Graham, who was ill. When Rev. Graham resigned, he became the pastor, being installed in 1853. He remained there until 1873, when he went to Harrisburg to engage in mission work, under the joint care of the Market Square and Pine Street Churches. During September of that year **Rev. West** organized Westminster Presbyterian Church, in the small, dingy lodge room over the Broad Street Market House. The next year a small chapel was erected at Reily and Green Streets, and there he remained until 1890. Then, owing to throat trouble he had to leave a river atmosphere, and located at Carlisle, filling the pulpit of the Second Presbyterian Church for over a year, while the pastor was in Europe. He then returned to Path Valley, feeling that his ministry was at an end. However, he filled pulpits as stated supply, served a year at the Biddle Memorial Mission, in Carlisle. He was pastor of the Robert Kennedy Memorial Church at Welsh Run for five years. There, on February 6, 1898, **Mrs. West** passed away, and **Rev. West** then left there to become president of Metzgar College, at Carlisle. In 1900 he was called to the McConnellsburg and Green Hill Churches, where he was pastor until his retirement, about 1905. He died in 1908. He was stated clerk of Carlisle Presbytery for many years.

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