

WEBSTER, ALEXANDER, master mechanic and machinist, of New Albany, was born February 23, 1829, in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He is the only son of Andrew and Ann (Potter) Webster, who emigrated to that state with their parents from Fifeshire, Scotland. When he was only about a year old his father died, leaving him to the care of his mother and grandparents. He received early instruction in the English branches, and at the age of eleven years was taken by his grandfather and his mother to Canada. There he attended school part of the time until he was fifteen. He early evinced a taste for machinery, and persuaded his mother to let him come to the United States and learn a trade. Having friends in Brownsville, Pennsylvania, he was sent there, and apprenticed to Mr. John Snodon, a machinist. After remaining there three years, he went to Pittsburgh, where he worked for a time, and then found employment at New Albany, Indiana. In 1860, in partnership with Josiah Johnson, he commenced building steam-engines and mill machinery at New Albany, which they continued until 1877. In August, 1867, their shop was destroyed by fire, but the loss retarded their business but a short time. In 1877 Mr. Webster and Mr. H. Pitt purchased Mr. Johnson's interest, and have conducted the business under the firm name of Webster & Pitt to the present time. They have built some of the largest and best machinery in the city, and have shipped great quantities to nearly every state in the Union. They have now one of the best appointed shops in the state, and beautiful specimens of their work may be found at the New Albany woolen mills. Mr. Webster has been married twice; first, in 1850, to Miss Amy Elizabeth Payne, who died about six years after. She left two children, John J. and Anna, the latter of whom died at the age of seven years. He afterward married Miss Sarah C. Smith, who has borne him five children – George T., Elizabeth M., Carrie B., Frank, and Ira G. Mr. Webster and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Few men are more happily situated, or more highly esteemed in the community.