

# Old and New Westmoreland

Genealogical and Personal History under Editorial Supervision of

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**THOMAS DONOHUE, JR.**—One of the most prominent men in Greensburg is Thomas Donohoe, Jr., a conspicuous figure in the coal business. He is the son of Thomas Donohoe and Cecelia (Wise) Donohoe, and was born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1865. He received all his education in Greensburg schools, going through the courses of the parochial and the public schools, and finishing at the Greensburg Seminary. He also received the advantages of private tutoring in Latin, Greek and other languages from the Rev. Augustin Wirth, O. S. B., of Greensburg.

As a lad Mr. Donohoe was always prominent in athletics, riding and winning his first horse race at the age of ten years. He was a member of the Greensburg baseball and football clubs, of the No. 1 Hose Company, of the Matinee Club, and of the Greensburg Athletic Association, always taking an active part in the management and organization of these bodies as well as participating as a player. He was a member of Company I, Tenth Regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania, enlisting in 1884, and rising to the command of the company in 1891. An expert rifle shot, he was a member of the rifle team of the regiment and has the Gold Medal of the State as a veteran marksman. He also served in the quartermaster and adjutant departments. He retired in 1896. At the breaking out of the Spanish War he was selected by Colonel A. L. Hawkins to recruit the Third Battalion of the Tenth Regiment, and was selected to be its major. The battalion was, however, not sent to the Philippines with the original regiment. In 1889 he took charge of eighty men from the Alexandria Coal Works, and did relief work at Johnstown for the first four weeks after the flood.

His business career began in his father's store at Greensburg in 1886, and he afterwards took charge of the store of the Alexandria Coal Company at Crabtree, and for three years was the storekeeper, company clerk, and Pennsylvania agent at that place. He then became superintendent for the Madison Gas Coal Company, at Darragh, Pennsylvania, in 1890. While there he built the plants of the Sewickley Gas Coal Company, and the Arona Gas Coal Company. In 1894, in a successful effort to save the lives of a number of workmen, endangered by a train of coal cars, he was very seriously injured, all the others escaping injury.

In 1892 he, with Judge John B. Steel and Lieutenant-Governor John Latta, organized the Pittsburgh & Southwestern Coal Company. He bought coal lands on the Wabash Pittsburgh Terminal Railroad, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and was the first coal operator in the Avella section, and shipped the first car of coal over the Wabash Railroad when it entered Pittsburgh. He was president and general manager up to 1916, but after that year, while retaining ownership in this property, he gave up active management to become president and general manager of Coxes Creek Coal Company, and of the Addison Smokeless Coal Company, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, where he is now operating three large mines.

Mr. Donohoe was one of the original organizers of the Lincoln National Bank of Avella, and was one of its board of directors. He also serves as the president and is a director of the Greensburg Foundry and Machine Company. He is also interested in the Mountain Smokeless Coal Company, and in the Interlocking Wheel Company, whose wheels are manufactured in Chicago. He is an engineer and has the inventive faculty very highly developed, having invented the interlocking wheel, the cast frog for railroads, the hand pneumatic coal cutter, a cutter and loader for coal mines, an economy gas engine, a steam generator, and a safety design for ships to resist torpedo and gunfire attack. This latter has been offered free to the United States government. He is a Catholic in religion, and an Independent in politics.